

**Sihanouk: U.N. role not essential**

BANGKOK (R) — Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk called Saturday for an international conference to choose an alternative commission to supervise a Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea. Sihanouk, who heads a coalition of three guerrilla factions fighting in Kampuchea, is due to negotiate with the Paris-based government next week in Indonesia. He has previously demanded that the United Nations police and supervise a Kampuchean settlement but he said this was not essential for the success of Jakarta or Paris negotiations. At a lunch given by Thai Premier Chatichai Choonhaven he called "in so far as possible for an international peace keeping force, either through the good offices of the United Nations or the good offices of an eventual international conference of Paris or Kampuchea." But he said any Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea "must be controlled and verified by an international mission of control (ICC) whose members would be chosen by an ad hoc international conference in Paris and not appointed unilaterally by (Vietnam)." General elections should be held under the ICC "and assisted by the international peace keeping force if the latter is sent to Kampuchea."

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Differing interpretations of Arab League call threaten to rekindle Beirut battles

**Lebanese truce hangs by thread**

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A dispute developed Saturday over the interpretation of an Arab League-sponsored truce, threatening to corrode a day-old cease-fire already violated by a burst of shelling.

Poles said a half dozen howitzer shells were fired into the coastal strip of the 800-square-kilometer Christian enclave north of Beirut. No casualties were reported.

The brief salvo underscored fears that the day-old cease-fire would collapse as both sides refused to lift blockades of each other's territory.

"The cease-fire is holding, but this disagreement over the blockades could spark fighting any minute," an independent analyst said.

Most shops and businesses stayed shut amid doubts that the cease-fire between army commander Michel Aoun's forces and Syria troops and their militia allies, mediated by the Arab League, would hold. It went into effect midday Friday.

Security sources said at least 20 artillery shells were fired at the Christian area of Amsheet near the ancient town of Byblos north of Beirut. Most landed in the sea.

Aoun said late Friday that he would maintain a blockade of ports run by militias, which sparked artillery duels that killed 230 people in the past six weeks. Pro-Syrian political sources

said Syria and its militia allies would continue their sea, air and road blockade of Christian areas until Aoun's forces lifted their blockade.

The Arab League, meeting in Tunis Thursday, called for an end to the blockades as part of the cease-fire plan.

Saturday's sporadic barrage accompanied mounting differences between Aoun and the Arab League over the interpretation of a key provision of the truce accord which went into effect Friday.

The differences threaten to undermine the truce, the fourth effort by the Arab League in less than a month.

A provision in the agreement calls for "lifting the blockades imposed on all sea, land and air routes..."

Aoun insists that the clause covers only the ports of Beirut and Jounieh in the Christian enclave. They are besieged by the Syrians and allied forces.

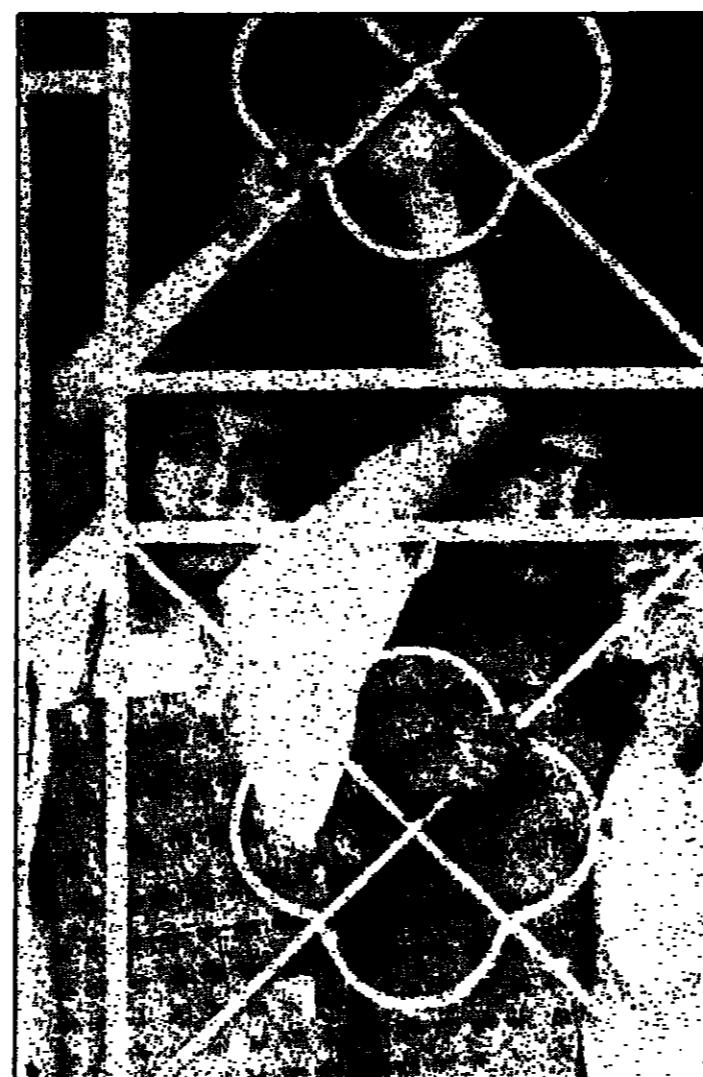
Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi sent cables to Aoun and his rival, acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss saying the provision in question covered "all sea ports irrespective of their status."

Aoun responded to Klibi in a cable saying his blockade of militia-run ports was "in implementation of Lebanese law and therefore are not to be described as blockades."

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah warned Saturday that the 14-year-old war, in which hundreds of ceasefires have come and gone, was unlikely to end soon.

"The tragic events the country has witnessed since 1975 cannot be ended overnight or within weeks," the Kuwaiti News Agency quoted Sheikh Saad as saying in Kuwait.

In Tunis, sources close to the league said Saturday a Kuwaiti and an Algerian diplomat would visit Beirut early next week to arrange details for the deployment of an Arab observer force due to monitor the cease-fire.



Peering out... Lebanese children taking shelter behind closed doors, peer out of a window during a lull in Beirut violence.

**Mubarak to attend summit**

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak will attend a proposed Arab summit to take place next month in Rabat, Morocco, a state-run weekly magazine reported.

The report, in Sunday's edition of the weekly October magazine, did not mention a source for its information, but the publication is known for its accuracy. The AP obtained an early edition.

Due to a long weekend of religious holiday, government officials were not available for comment.

Under the headline "Intensified Egyptian-Arab Activities the Coming Weeks," October gave a list of Mubarak's schedules for the month of May, including a trip to Saudi Arabia, visits by the heads of state of Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen and the emir of Bahrain. They are all previously confirmed meetings.

"President Hosni Mubarak will attend an extraordinary Arab summit meeting to be held in Rabat and to focus on the Lebanon issue," October said.

Morocco is planning to host an Arab League summit set tenta-



Hosni Mubarak

tively for May 20, to discuss mainly the Lebanon crisis, the Palestine issue and Egypt's possible reinstatement in the organization.

Last week, a Moroccan envoy touring Arab states with invitations to the summit met Mubarak in Cairo and later indicated to reporters that Egypt might be invited to attend.

Asked if Morocco had begun sending out invitations to other Arab countries, Ahmad Osman, speaker of Morocco's parliament told reporters: "I came to Arab Egypt to convey a message in that context."

The heads of state of Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq, who formed the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) with Egypt last February, have said they would not attend any Arab summit without Cairo.

Without mentioning the United States by name, Terzi said

**Qasem sworn in, meets Soviet envoy**

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem was sworn in Saturday before His Majesty King Hussein as member of Sharif Zaid ibn Shaker's cabinet, which was formed by a Royal Decree Thursday.

Qasem was abroad when the Cabinet was formed and the ministers took the oath of office before King Hussein.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem is sworn in Saturday before His Majesty King Hussein

Attending Saturday's ceremony at the Royal Court were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid, Royal Court Chief Thouqan Hindawi and King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

Later Saturday Qasem met with visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yanadi Tarasov and exchanged views with him on developments in the Middle East and efforts to convene an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

**Cabinet forms committees**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers met Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid ibn Shaker and formed its financial and economic committee, legal committee, services committee and guidance and information committee. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taher Al Massi was named as head of the Financial and Economic Committee, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh was named head of the Legal and Services Committee while Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem was named head of the Guidance and Information Committee. These committees will propose policies in their respective fields and submit them to the full Cabinet for discussion and approval.

The Council of Ministers agreed to exchange memos with the government of Britain on transforming a £5 million loan to a grant to be used for technical assistance and consultancy services. The Cabinet also approved amendments to three agreements with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The amendments approve an increase in a USAID grant for scholarships and training services to \$6.1 million from \$5.1 million, another for developing agricultural marketing from \$2.5 to \$4 million and the third for feasibility studies and technical services from \$12.353 to \$14.053 million.

**15 wounded in occupied lands**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers Saturday shot and wounded at least 15 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip as demonstrators defied an army-imposed curfew to protest the high number of Arab casualties in the seaside strip.

Mercenaries in Gaza shut their stores in a commercial strike to protest the high casualty toll and commemorate the Palestinians killed by army gunfire, reports said.

An Arab reporter in Gaza City said youths erected roadblocks and burned tires, and said he saw at least 20 Palestinian flags hanging from electric wires.

The army clamped a curfew on several neighbourhoods in the city and on three refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, forcing about 80,000 residents to stay inside their homes. Some 650,000 Palestinians live in the southern strip, many in refugee camps.

But the curfew failed to prevent sporadic stone-throwing clashes and protests. In Gaza City's Sabra neighbourhood, about 100 people rushed to the street, shouting the names of martyrs until the army dispersed them with tear-gas, a witness told the AP.

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Up to 20,000 others sought refuge under heavy army guard at Dakar's trade fair ground. Some 10,000 Senegalese marched on the makeshift camp Friday but were held back by soldiers and police firing tear-gas.

Mauritanians who had not found refuge were hunted down by gangs of youths and stoned, clubbed or hacked to death.

Similarly thousands of Senegalese are sheltering in Nouakchott's main mosque

that if the council were "incapacitated" by one member, it might be necessary to seek the support of others to convene a meeting on the Palestinian question.

A total of 129 member states voted for the General Assembly resolution, including most of America's allies. Liberia cast the only abstention.

Unknown assailants set fire to the home of the Israeli-appointed mayor of the West Bank town of Al Birh Saturday.

Hassan Al Tawil, who was stabbed and seriously wounded in June 1988, told Reuters this time he was quitting.

In a message to the council president, mission chief Zahdi Labi Terzi asked for immediate action and cited an April 20 resolution of the General Assembly which recommended that the council consider such measures.

Aleksandr Belonogov of the Soviet Union is the current president. He will be succeeded on May 1 by Crispin Tickell of Britain.

The United States and Israel cast the only negative votes against the assembly resolution, which condemned Israel's policies and practices in the occupied lands.

Without mentioning the United States by name, Terzi said

**Senegalese on Dakar 'revenge' spree**

DAKAR (R) — Thousands of youths rampaged through the Senegalese capital Dakar Saturday in defiance of a state of emergency as the toll from communal rioting against Mauritians rose to at least 33.

Soldiers and police fired tear-gas as gangs tore through the streets smashing and burning Mauritanian shops after a seven-hour curfew ended at 5 a.m. (0500 GMT).

Children and well-dressed Senegalese joined in the free-for-all, carting away looted goods.

A Reuter correspondent

counted 33 bodies at the main hospital morgue. Some had been sexually mutilated and had their eyes gouged out. The victims were mainly light-skinned Moors of Arab and Berber descent. Most Senegalese are black.

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The meeting took place in offices of the All-China Youth Federation, a government body encompassing various youth groups.

Wu'er Kaixi, the president of the United Association of Peking Universities, a group newly formed by student activists, had been invited to the meeting but was not allowed to attend after he refused to give up a plan to openly denounce the government's position that his association is illegal.

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circle of the nation's top decision-makers, was an indication of how serious the government regards the recent student unrest.

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Zhou Yongjun, another representative of the independent student group who attended the meeting, said it was a failure because the government side refused to recognise the legitimacy of the association.

Zhou said the state education minister repeated the government argument that the association was illegal, but "he couldn't say which law we've broken. That to me was a victory."

Student leaders not invited to the talks denounced the meeting, saying the communist authorities should begin a dialogue with their newly-founded independent federation.

First copies of their breakaway newsletter "News Herald" and an open letter to the United Nations were distributed to reporters.

Signed "Students Fighting for Freedom and Democracy" the letter listed seven demands, including punishment for police who beat protesting students, press freedom and democratic reforms.

Foreign diplomats said the authorities, faced with the most serious unrest since 1976, were trying to buy time and stop protests planned for May 4, the 70th anniversary of a movement for democratic rights.

State television reported the

3,000 Mauritanians have returned home by road.

France said Saturday it was sending five transport planes to help in the repatriation effort. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said four air force Transall transport planes were leaving France Saturday to join another already based in Dakar.

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A Swiss medic looking over X-rays of two wounded SWAPO fighters who were captured and later released by South African forces in Namibia

**S. Africans end truce, hunt for SWAPO fighters**

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — Hundreds of South African-controlled soldiers and paramilitary police were allowed to leave their bases down Saturday to begin tracking any Namibian nationalists fighters in the territory.

The troops had been confined to bases beginning Wednesday evening to give the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas time to follow the orders of their commanders and retreat into Angola.

According to a U.N. peace plan and an agreement between Angola, South Africa and Cuba, the SWAPO guerrillas were to stay in their bases in Angola and Tanzania until mid-May, then return as unarmed refugees to participate in November independent elections.

South Africa has agreed to end its 74-year control of the territory, also called South-West Afr-

ica, under a United Nations plan that was threatened when the guerrillas crossed the border into Namibia prematurely April 1.

The South African forces were freed from their bases to fight the incursion and in the next two weeks, 305 guerrillas and 27 security force members were killed, according to the South Africans.

South African Foreign Affairs Director-General Neil van Heerden said Angola, Cuba and South Africa had agreed at a Cape Town meeting this week to allow another two weeks for verification that all the SWAPO combatants have returned to their bases.

If that can be verified by May 13, the three nations would have another meeting May 15, and the U.N. peace plan would proceed, with the South Africans and the counter-insurgency police un-

ited to end the truce and hunt for SWAPO fighters.

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## Gaza violence 'out of control'

By Paul Taylor  
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Violence in the occupied Gaza Strip is out of control, Israeli sources, international relief workers and Palestinian observers say.

Since the start of the fasting month of Ramadan three weeks ago, troops have killed 12 Palestinians and wounded 382 by gunfire in Gaza alone, according to reliable hospital records.

The enormous casualties have bred more violence. Every funeral sparks new protests.

"Things are simply snowballing out of control. Curfews and traditional methods of 'riot' control don't work any more," a senior Israeli source said.

The 16-month Palestinian uprising wracking the occupied territories began in Gaza and has always been most violent in its teeming slums and squalid refugee camps.

But international relief workers say the latest bloodshed, with an average of more than 30 wounded by gunfire a day last week, is the most severe since last August, when the army started using supposedly less lethal plastic bullets.

Ironically when Israel freed 224 Gaza prisoners on the eve of Ramadan, the head of the

occupation administration in the Gaza Strip, Brigadier-General Ary Ramot, boasted to reporters that the area had been largely "pacified."

Israeli officials cite three causes for the surge in protests — calls by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) for escalation during Ramadan, poverty and frustration that Palestinians have seen no concrete political achievement from their revolt.

Army spokeswoman Lieutenant-Colonel Ofra Preuss said Gaza was more violent than the West Bank partly "because people there are less educated and have less to lose economically."

The army acted differently in Gaza from the West Bank, although firing orders were the same in both areas, she said.

Palestinians and international relief workers say much of the violence has flared in the southern half of the strip, where Muslim fundamentalism is reputedly strongest.

But they say the main cause is allegedly indiscriminate firing by Israeli troops. They cite the growing number of young children among the victims, and the increasing incidence of wounds in the upper part of the body.

The uprising has generally grown more violent during Ramadan in sharp contrast to last

year when the fasting month was so quiet that Israeli newspapers began to speculate about the possible end of the revolt.

There has been a sharp increase in attacks by Palestinians on fellow Arabs accused of collaborating with the Israeli secret police. Six have been stabbed, hacked or beaten to death last week alone in the West Bank and Gaza.

The army's initial reaction to the surge of Gaza violence was to deny it was happening.

On days when Gaza hospitals admitted between 30 and 40 gun-shot casualties, the army spokesman acknowledged only two or three wounded.

The spokesman aroused derision Monday by declaring that the Gaza Strip was relatively calm. Hospital records showed at least 38 people were shot that day.

On Wednesday, the spokesman said reports of more than 20 wounded were unfounded. The hospital casualty toll was 61.

The army says it is hard to keep track of casualties because soldiers involved in confrontations often do not know how many people they hit and the main private Arab hospital in Gaza, Ahli, which treats the largest number of casualties, does not cooperate with the occupation authorities.

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A Palestinian boy with a hood holds a flag as a fire burns in the background

## Khamenei backs move to amend constitution

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's President Ali Khamenei has backed Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's decision to amend the constitution, and expressed hope that the amendments would give the next Iranian president more powers.

Iran's presidential elections are scheduled for late this summer.

The Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Khamenei as saying in his Friday sermon that under the present constitution power was divided among many offices, leaving the president too little power.

"There is more dispersion (of power) than can be allowed in a good and strong administration.

The various forces and authorities must be a bit more concentrated," IRNA quoted Khamenei as saying.

"You cannot run a country like this in a correct way and with strength," IRNA reported him as saying.

Power under the current constitution is divided between Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and President Khamenei, with

Khomeini having the ultimate word on all matters.

Khamenei said that under the present constitution the prime minister has more power than the president, and said that this situation must be rectified if Iran is to be governed by a strong administration. IRNA reported.

Earlier this month 160 parliamentarians sent a letter to Khomeini asking that the constitution be amended.

Khomeini last week appointed a 25-man committee to revise the constitution within two months, and to put it to the people for final approval in a referendum.

The committee will also name a leadership council to replace Khomeini after the 88-year-old patriarch's death.

Khomeini last month deposed his designated successor, Ayatollah Hosseini Ali Montazeri, who had harshly criticised the government and was pushing to liberalise Iran's tightly controlled society.

Both Khamenei and Musavi are members of the ad hoc committee.

Another prominent member of the committee, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, delivering the Friday sermon in the northwestern city of Qom, backed the immediate revision of the constitution.

"If we delay improving some (constitutional) principles, the Islamic republic will sustain irreparable blows especially in the area of future leadership," IRNA reported.

Arafat again rejected Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the occupied territories, saying he favoured elections organised by the United Nations after the withdrawal of Israel's armed forces.

He said Shamir had not changed his views, despite indications he might approve a U.N. role in elections.

"There has not been any movement. Shamir is happy to repeat old slogans using new words," Arafat said.

France expects Arafat to give the world fresh proof of his willingness to pursue Middle East peace when he visits Paris next week. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Wednesday.

Dumas told the National Assembly the PLO chairman's visit should mark new progress on the road of peace.

Dumas said France "plans to do all it can to encourage the spirit of moderation and realism of the PLO leadership. It expects in parallel to receive confirmation of this will for peace and for mutual recognition (with Israel)."

## Arafat hopes Paris visit will speed peace process

PARIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted Saturday as saying he hoped a meeting with President Francois Mitterrand next week would speed up the Middle East peace process.

With the president of France and the government, I hope to be able to coordinate our positions to speed up the peace process," Arafat told the French daily Le Figaro in an interview.

Arafat will meet Mitterrand for the first time in Paris Tuesday during a two-day visit that has aroused anger among France's 500,000-strong Jewish community.

Several demonstrations against Arafat have been announced and Paris police are planning to step up security for his visit.

Arafat's meeting with Mitterrand is seen as a major coup for the PLO leader in his attempts to gain international support and recognition for an independent Palestinian state.

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## Britain says diplomats received death threats

LONDON (Agencies) — British embassies in Europe have received letters threatening to kill British diplomats because of London's stand on the Salman Rushdie affair, the Foreign Office said Friday.

A spokesman confirmed a Belgian newspaper report that the embassy in Brussels had received written death threats from a previously unknown group calling itself "the Defenders of Islamic Virtue."

"Similar letters have gone to various embassies in Europe," the spokesman said. The letters contained death threats to named British diplomats, he added.

"These threats are always taken seriously and we have acted accordingly. We have advised where possible the people (in the letters). Obviously we have been told and we have taken appropriate action," the spokesman said without giving details.

He was commenting on a report in the Belgian newspaper La

Libre Belgique which said Britain's embassy in Brussels had received two letters in Arabic containing threats linked to Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses."

The letters list several British diplomats who will be murdered in the coming hours and advise people close to them to stay away from the victims in case they too are killed," the paper said. It sourced the report to police.

The Foreign Office declined to comment on a further allegation in La Libre Belgique that a "good number" of diplomats had left Belgium for other postings following Terry Waite from Lebanon.

"I believe Terry Waite to be alive and I have hopes (for his release) in the long-term," said Runcie, in Cyprus to attend a conference of world Anglican leaders.

"Communications since the Rushdie affair have become more difficult and that means that we have not been able to develop a conversation with Iraq," Runcie said.

The ruling was handed down Thursday by Judge Oscar Vera based on a suit brought by the Islamic Centre representing the

country's Muslims.

Publisher McGraw-Hill Inc. has said it would not participate in a book fair next month in Iran because of the "unfolding politicalisation" of the event.

The company announced its decision one day after another U.S. publisher had planned to exhibit its books at the fair, John Wiley and Sons, a major producer of technical and scientific books, announced it would pull out of the event.

The two publishers were criticised by the authors' guild and by the publisher of Rushdie.

McGraw-Hill Inc. had planned to participate through its company in England, McGraw-Hill Book Co. (U.K.) Ltd, but said in a statement it had directed the subsidiary to "withdraw completely" from the book fair.

The unfolding politicisation of the book fair indicates participation serves no constructive purpose," McGraw-Hill said.

## Soviets search for missing troops in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP) — When the Soviet Union pulled the last of its soldiers out of Afghanistan two months ago, 313 were left behind, lost during the Soviet army's nine-year involvement in the civil war.

Some were shot down and possibly killed. Some were captured by guerrillas and held in prison camps in Afghanistan, Iran or Pakistan. Others just wandered outside one day and vanished.

Moscow has turned for help to the United States, which still is trying to trace the 2,400 U.S. servicemen who disappeared during the Vietnam war.

"It's a problem that would cost the United States nothing to help solve and would mean a great deal to us," said Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan and first deputy prime minister to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"You Americans shouldn't have any trouble understanding why this is so important to us," Vorontsov said.

They say it is difficult to estimate how many prisoners were held by the guerrillas.

"There are tens, maybe hundreds of groups fighting, and their connection is quite loose," one Red Cross official said.

"Some (prisoners) are released, others are exchanged, transferred from one rebel group to another, or executed," the worker said, speaking on condition of not being identified.

"We have discussed the exchange of POWs (prisoners of war) with representatives of the Afghan resistance. We have conveyed to the resistance and to the Soviets our position that there should be no involuntary repatriation of POWs," a U.S. State Department spokesman said.

"Given that U.N. monitors are in place in both Afghanistan and Pakistan and that in Pakistan they have established posts to monitor events in the border areas. There was no independent confirmation.

The Red Cross sources say it was unlikely there were more than 75 Soviet prisoners — if that many — alive in Afghanistan.

And despite what the guerrillas call good will gestures, they have said they want to keep their prisoners as bargaining chips should they capture the capital of Kabul.

"They always have an excuse," Vorontsov said. "First they didn't want to talk until the Soviet troops were gone. Now that they are, they say 'they only talk when there's a full settlement.'"

On Feb. 15, under a U.N.-sponsored accord, the Soviet Union pulled out the last of its troops, ending a military involvement that began in December 1979. The communists had come to power in an April 1978 coup that led to the guerrilla insurgency.

### Monitoring arms

REuter adds: The United States said Friday it found men in a Pakistani request for U.N. observers to monitor the flow of Soviet arms to Afghanistan.

Pakistan, charging that Moscow was sending quantities of weapons into Afghanistan in violation of Geneva accords, urged the Security Council Wednesday to establish U.N. monitoring posts. The Geneva accords, signed last April, provided for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan by February this year and barred interference in the country's internal affairs.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Whisky smuggler killed in Kuwaiti shootout

KUWAIT (AP) — An armed alcohol smuggler was killed and two others wounded in gun battle with a Kuwaiti patrol on the borders with Iraq while trying to smuggle a quantity of whisky into the country, the Kuwaiti News Agency reported Friday. The agency quoted an Interior Ministry spokesman as saying that two men in the Kuwaiti patrol were also injured in the shootout Thursday near the border post of Abdali, 140 kilometres north of the city of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti patrol intercepted the smugglers trying to bring in 785 bottles of whisky in two cars, the report said. The nationality of the killed smuggler was not disclosed.

### U.S. deflags 6 Kuwaiti tankers

BAHRAIN (AP) — The United States and Kuwait have agreed to remove the American flag from six Kuwait-owned oil tankers that sailed under U.S. protection during the Iran-Iraq war in the Gulf, officials said Friday. The decision, announced by the U.S. Maritime Administration in Washington, ended two months of deadlock between U.S. and Kuwaiti officials over what had been assumed to be a routine matter when it was first announced last February. According to official sources in the Gulf and in Washington, the Kuwaitis raised strenuous objections to a provision of U.S. law stipulating that even after the vessels reverted to Kuwaiti registry, the United States would retain the right to requisition them for use in a national emergency. The sources, who insisted on anonymity, said that although the chances of that ever happening were extremely remote, Kuwaiti officials rejected any such condition as an infringement on their country's sovereignty. In the end, they said, the two sides found a "loophole" to resolve the issue, agreeing that the tankers would be returned to the Kuwaiti government's Finance Ministry rather than to the Kuwait Oil Tanker Co., which actually operates them.

### U.N. plays down Israeli attack

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israeli soldiers who beat up a Swedish officer and chased a local U.N. employee in Gaza were new to duty and the incident was not part of a pattern of harassment, a U.N. spokesman said Friday. Spokesman Francois Giuliani said this was the gist of an initial report by General Martin Vatset, commander of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), who was investigating the attack on Swedish Major Gunnar Aulsen. Giuliani, who termed it "human error," said Israeli paratroopers at the Shati refugee camp beat Aulsen, seized two U.N. vehicles and badly damaged one of them. They fired shots after a fleeing local U.N. employee who was with the major, the spokesman said. In a report to New York, Vatset "indicated that this was an isolated incident due to a change of personnel on the Israeli side and was not part of a pattern of harassment," Giuliani said.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 320003, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:35	Cairo (MS)





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## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**CONGRATULATIONS:** His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Malta's president congratulating him on his election for the post. In his cable, the King wished the president continued health and happiness and the Maltese people further progress and prosperity (Petra).

**BRIDGES CROSSING:** The King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan will open for traffic Sunday at 6:30 a.m. and close 12 noon, according to a statement by the Public Security Department Saturday (Petra).

**NATIONAL DAY:** The Ministry of Social Development will organise a national day for the deaf and mentally retarded children in the coming month. The ministry's director of special education Ismael Abdur Qader said that events to be held between May 13 and 23 will focus public attention on the plight of the handicapped and ways to provide them with assistance (Petra).

**LIBRARIANS:** The department of education in the Amman region Saturday opened a training course for librarians of government schools. The department director Mohammad Bani Ham said that the ministry will offer awards to librarians whose schools win cultural and book-reading competitions (Petra).

**VACCINES:** The Jordanian national Red Crescent Society Saturday announced that it donated 40,000 doses of vaccine against meningitis to the Ministry of Health to help it carry out its campaign of immunising would be pilgrims. The vaccines had come to the country from the British Red Cross Society, according to a society spokesman. All would be pilgrims will be vaccinated against the disease before performing this year's pilgrimage, according to regulations set by the Saudi authorities (Petra).

**BUDGET:** Thd Deir Alia municipality's 1989 fiscal budget amounts to JD 306,850. The town's mayor said that the bulk of this budget will finance street construction, the establishment of children's playgrounds and the purchase of pesticides (Petra).

**SCHOOLS:** The department of education in Zarqa Saturday announced that it received 15 new schools and 11 annexes to existing schools within the Zarqa region. It said that work is now underway to build six other schools in the course of implementing the Ministry of Education's programme to make available sufficient buildings to serve as schools and dispose of rented buildings (Petra).



**NEW MANAGER:** Mr. Majeed Khalil has assumed his duties as new general manager of Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel. Mr. Khalil, a Jordanian citizen, holds a diploma in computer programming. He attended intensive courses in hotel management and also acquired another diploma in business administration. He earlier held a number of executive positions in several international firms and hotels such as Grand Metropolitan, Grosvenor, and Westmoresland, Piccadilly. Mr. Khalil has an honorary certificate for his efforts in marketing Britain during his work in Dubai. He is also an honorary member in the Chaine des Rotisseurs (J.T.).



CAA Director Mahmoud Balqez (right centre) leads the Jordanian delegation for talks with Thai aviation officials (Petra photo).

## RJ increases Bangkok flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Thailand Saturday agreed on increasing flights by Royal Jordanian (RJ) to Bangkok to four weekly to cope with the increasing demand on flights between the two countries.

The agreement was reached in talks held here by teams from the national airlines of the two countries led by Civil Aviation Authority Director Mahmoud Jamal Balqez from Jordan and the Thai

tions.

Apart from Bangkok, Balqez visited Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, and Manila.

RJ last month announced it will start flights to Jakarta in May 1989 at the rate of two a week, increasing gradually to four weekly flights by 1990.

RJ also announced that it was planning to operate flights to Peking, Tokyo, Sydney and Manila as a next step.

## FAO's regional meeting to discuss rural development

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will open a regional round table meeting in Amman May 14 to discuss matters related to rural development and agrarian reform in the Near East region.

The delegates will try to identify the problems and the new developments related to agricultural development and will prepare recommendations on development policies in the rural regions according to Dr. Shabib

Ibni Jaber, director of the FAO regional office in charge of rural development and agrarian reform.

The meeting, which comes 10 years to the day when the first meeting was held by FAO to discuss similar topics, will look into causes behind continual emigration of people from rural to urban regions and the effect of this emigration on the agricultural sector in the Near East, agricultural mechanisation specifically those directed to small farmers.

Abu Jaber said that the meeting will be attended by representatives of governments as well as FAO specialists.

## Italians finance quarrying, processing of ornamental stones

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian government has approved a supplementary technical assistance programme in favour of the pilot plant for quarrying and processing ornamental stones, established in Maan by Jordan National Al Quarry Company and Techstone S.P.A. of Carrara (Ita-

ly).

The Italian embassy here announced.

The second phase of the project will include the supply of auxiliary equipment (special drilling equipment, shaping machines for the production of a wide range of finished products as kitchen and table tops, a lathe

machine for the production of vases, ash-trays, as well as consumable materials).

Moreover, Italian technicians and geologists will continue to assist and train on the job the local staff.

For the implementation of this part of the project the government of Italy has allocated a grant of 801,985,000 Italian lire (JD 320,794 approximately).

The quarrying and processing plant was realised in less than two years with a grant of the Italian government of nearly \$3.1 million in 1985, and JD 20 million in 1986 and, according to Mulqi, because of a decline in sales of real estate.

Mulqi said that non-Jordanians can buy real estate within the municipalities' regions and can own real estate anywhere in Jordan.

## Brotherly celebrations bring forth cultural exchange

By Nelly Lama

AMMAN — To crown the Iraqi cultural festival held in Jordan to feast the 52nd birthday of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a fine arts exhibition was held at the Royal Cultural Centre. It included paintings, sculptures and ceramics by several Arab artists bearing a mutual bond of friendship initiated by their governments. The exhibition was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Iba Al Hussein. A great number of personalities and celebrated artists attended the inauguration ceremony.

The exhibition included 10 Iraqi artists, 10 Jordanians, one Egyptian and one Yemeni. The purpose of this exhibition is the orientation of the public to the works of artists from neighbouring countries. A feeling of mutual understanding and empathy was truly prevalent among the exhibitors during the exhibition and the ensuing discussion centering on the meaning of modern art.

On entering the exhibition one is struck by a monumental painting by Egyptian artist Hassan Jalal depicting, with strong realism, the portrait of President Saddam Hussein surrounded by famous Iraqi architectural structures such as the zigurat of Samarra, the shrine of the martyr, and typical Iraqi scenes such as a boat and a palm tree. An Iraqi flag floats above, its red stripe forms a strong diagonal that gives the painting its vivacity, apparent in the first place is the witty, pleasant smile of the leader.

Hassan Jalal's other paintings support in their strength the fogg created in this first painting. They could be placed under the school of surrealism, because they include objective matter, such as the back of a chair painted with great realism, facing a fogg of intense colours, fogg shapes, some forming outbursts on the surface, others modelled into 3-dimensional forms, jolly-like projections, foamy warm colours, a cracked rock done realistically, interspersed with globules, like eyes, little nudes and suggestions of animal figures all create a dynamic pull. It is overwhelming but the details are strikingly well painted so that one is stunned when one finds out he is self-taught.

Another painting of his, the Tearful Clown, shows the same metamorphosis of forms. The white mask of the clown is breaking free letting a man's chin show through. A whilst in his mouth signals the end of an era, hence the tear. The face extends into animal forms, nudes, paint formations rendered in impasto creating textured outbursts. Hassan uses primary colours which coordinate with his numismatic approach to art, considering that Yoga plays a very important role in his life.

A realistic painting of an old man's head rendered in hair-like strips of paint is almost sculpturesque, not because of the raised paint forming reliefs at some places but because of the strong chiaro-scuro, the apparent volumes of the face interrupted by deep crevices witnessing to a good study of anatomy. This painting was very popular among the viewers who seemed to admire Hassan's novel technique disregarding the patchy background that makes the head float in space.

Next come two works by Dr. Kamel Kaabar, a Jordanian artist whose work tends towards flat geometric shapes. In his first painting, "Mr. X", a futuristic repetition of the features of a face has a silhouette of a dog juxtaposed in the centre. He explains it this way: "This is an expression of what I saw in films throughout my life. It's three views of a face. The multitude of eyes see everything, the three ears hear everything, the dog that covers the nose reminds us of the sixth sense, 'smelling', smelling of what is coming. The bright red interrupted line on the forehead reminds us of the depiction of boundaries on a map, therefore this man has crossed many countries. The hair that falls tidily in strips of various colours expresses the harmony of thought."

This lyrical and symbolic approach is typical of the works of Kamel Kaabar, whose second painting shows a memorial to air martyrs. Analogous blues and greens and some pink highlights fill the geometric forms of the glider, the eight pointed star "whose origin is Phoenician" he stresses, and the woman in the background, whose silhouette is a map of Palestine.

Next appear two works of the Yemeni artist Abed Razak Al Aghbari; densely populated with oriental architecture. Arches and windows with white tracery allow some depth within them while all else is flatly rendered on the surface of the canvas without perspective, emphasis being centered mostly on rhythm.

Mahmoud Sadiq, Jordan, offers geometric shapes painted flatly, sometimes covered with decorative sgraffito with a mere hint at oriental architecture. He uses an analogous scheme of brown, yellow and green with orange highlights. The major shape is interrupted by an active oblique line.

From Iraq comes Hassan Abed Alwan whose colours include a most unlikely combination of raw pink, turquoise and green mixed with earth colours, shades of brown. The shock of this combination is alleviated by the isolation of each colour scheme in areas, separated from each other by an empty outline. Rhythmic decorations on some protruding architectural surfaces, *shazanshi*, are superimposed by an oriental woman whose large silhouette fills the space on the left. There is solid balance in this asymmetrical painting. Alwan's other work, reminiscent of "Antar wa Abla" is a rather symmetrical composition, a nude female figure in a tent is flanked by two cypress trees while "Antar" mounts his horse and brandishes his sword in the centre. The whole setting and the flat background reminds us of early Arab miniatures.

All Taleb, Iraq, a famous prizewinner of an award at the Iraqi Biennial works with abstraction depicting masks and hands, in black and yellow, with hazy sgraffito etched into the paint along with collage.

A monumental work of Taleb is a forceful profile of a woman rendered in deep crimson. Decorative rough brushstrokes form a tiara. His frame is covered with paint while the area that lies between the picture format and the frame is filled with overlapping red, green, blue, yellow and orange brushstrokes that reappear clearly over the head.

Khadayr Shukari, also from Iraq, paints a multitude of masks, in black and white, looking anxiously out of a ship creating strong rhythm with their eyes and decorative strips.

Another painting of his includes abstract space split by a cubistically rendered strip covered with mosques, calligraphy and geometric decorative elements in brown and orange tones. A green strip with masks stands below and breaks the monochromy prevalent in the painting. All motifs are reminders of Bagdad realities.

Mohammed Jaloos, Jordan, exhibits his two different styles, one with white impasto square brushstrokes where the structure emphasises the centre, and one of his green style, where warriors come forward with architectural motifs in the background.

Samia Zarou, Jordan, medal bearer for Palestine from the Iraqi Biennial, returns with her collage of Palestinian embroidery strips concentrated in the dominant central area out of which emerge street-like projections in intense colours. Interesting sgraffito (etching into the paint) is seen. A motif is done in impasto overlay.

Turki Abdel Amir, Iraq, his is monochromatic work, namely browns, with abstractions dealing with trees, humans and flame-like objects.

Abdul Raouf Sham'on, Jordan, works within a flat blue background surrounding an arched doorway through which you can see all kinds of strong formations falling in lines, strips, thickly rendered.

Dr. Abi Bashir, a surgeon who was awarded, by President Saddam Hussein, the first gold medal in the Bagdad Biennial for three monumental paintings that dealt with the theme of martyrdom. In his present work, a horse-like creature, gulps a human whose hand is still apparent, coming out of the beast's mouth. The eyeball and anatomy of the hand are excellent proofs of his medical knowledge in the field of anatomy. It is rendered in gray and browns over a black and gray background. Above the raised horizon line is a setting sun. A good composition and a

morbid subject.

Another, just as morbid, depicts a hooded woman and a pigeon on a black line. It is simple, surrealistic and with more colour.

Tareq Mazoun, Iraq. A roughly painted format depicts a horned red-eyed monster, reminiscent of Medieval gargoyle, bearing wings and hovering over a landscape with two nude female figures. The colours are subdued and pastel with a dry texture.

Rafe' Al Nasiri, Iraq. Rafe' offers two paintings of linear geometric abstractions that engulf biomorphic shapes. In the background we find an interesting division of space reminding us roughly of the works of Rothko; he leaves strips of white between the flat spaces. But Al Nasiri adds calligraphy and semi-figurative shapes.

Aziz Ammouna, Jordan. Aziz offers an etching depicting his masked self portrait, its precise rendering, Aziz has always been capable of. We see beautiful work over the neck while the head, tilted back, presents a good opportunity for foreshortening. Calligraphy covers the blindfold and the strip in the background.

Aila, his wife, presents various still lives, some with vivid tones depicting flowers in a vase made with water colour, while others with more subtle hues, depict two simple circular jars that show a good study of light and shadow, each made in a different colour scheme.

Issam Tantawi, Jordan, presents 4 graphic prints into which he incorporates various techniques and media — "I use everything that I find on the table." — Being a graphic artist, his office paraphernalia could include radiographs, felt pens, graphic white inks, glues and photographic items. And truly enough, one finds this multi-media used in his works, photography playing a major part. A face of a child looking up with appealing eyes is repeated at different intervals within the format becoming gradually more impressive. It is covered with sprinkled paint, crossing brushstrokes, sgraffito, a collage (of an oriental carpet) and other techniques. That is why each work of his is unique and cannot be considered as a reproducible graphic print although it looks like one. In these works he means to convey a not-so-bodily image of the intifada.

Wooden sculptures by Salam Al Madamgah, Iraq, are abstract stylisations of calligraphy, or monoliths of repetitive rhythms created by the systematic impressions of tools. "This sculpture represents Jordan with its hills and valleys, the curved accumulation of rhythms reminds us of the Roman amphitheatre, the back of the sculpture presents a different theme, the martyr of the intifada, with the same rhythms." Salam leaves the sides of this sculpture in the round smooth and untouched. Another is a slab of wood with carved and gilt traditional Arabic calligraphy.

Perwin Al Sarraf, another Iraqi, resident in Jordan, presents her ceramic creations in which forms and glazes vary, intense colours are applied either with haphazard dripping or by filling in pre-ordained spaces.

Another ceramist, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Jordan, puts in his coffee chair with a pigeon dying below, glazed with colour and luster. Another work of his offers a totally different texture, that of natural biscuit fired red clay. It represents a circular jar flanked by headless human figures that seem to melt downwards.

Parallel with this exhibition was the viewing of a film on the late Iraqi sculptor Khaled Al Rahhal, followed by a presentation by Yousef Abul Eis, editor of the magazine "Al Fan", produced in Jeddah, on the theme of modern art between confusion and vision. In it he brought out the development of art since ancient Greece and Egypt, skimming through Donatello and the Renaissance, through 17th century Holland and Rembrandt, getting on to Hegel's idealistic philosophy of art, passing through Cezanne, into the senseless Dadaists use of a urinary as sculpture, and on to the gestural abstraction of Pollock and De Kooning. He finally presented the obstacles that stand in the way of art, its turning commercial, the lack of acceptance of its importance, its rejection of the "new" art and property.

The three happenings were an enlightening experience.

## Sharif Zaid asks ministers to implement King's directives

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the first day in office as Prime Minister, Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received congratulations from former prime ministers, speaker and members of the Upper House of Parliament and heads of various organisations.

Among those extending congratulations to the new prime minister also were Army chief of staff, the directors of Public Security and Civil Defence, the chief justice, heads of unions, governors, presidents of universities, heads of government departments, heads of municipal and village councils, and various other sectors as well as the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan.

Sharif Zaid Friday night chaired a cabinet meeting during which he reviewed the various directives included in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the new government.

The prime minister requested the ministers to carry out these directives by translating the

guidelines into executive progress.

The cabinet discussed means of further cementing national unity, and the prime minister urged the cabinet members to keep channels of dialogue and communication open with all sectors of the public in a bid to consolidate and corroborate cooperation between the government and people in dealing with the economic situation.

At the end of the meeting, the cabinet issued a statement underlining the importance of handling national issues with integrity and pledged to upgrade public service to win the public's respect and continued cooperation. Furthermore the statement emphasised that the government will take steps to control spending and rationalise consumption and protect public and state funds.

The new government, named three days after Zaid Rafai submitted his resignation to the King, is entrusted with implementing provisions and measures stipulated under an economic adaptation law of 1986.



helping his department in introducing computers to store data and information about the lands and maps and charts on different real estates. He said that the department continues to maintain constant coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment on matters related to land ownership and registration of real property.

He said that in some cases, and with the approval of the ministry, state-owned land can be exchanged for land owned by citizens for good reasons.

## Land deals yield JD 17m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Lands and Survey last year collected JD 17,324 million in fees for the registration of land and real estate in different parts of Jordan up from more than half a million dinars in 1972 when the boom years for real estate transactions began in Jordan, according to the department director Badri Al Mulqi.

But, Mulqi said, the highest collection in fees was made in 1984 and the two previous years when the department collected JD 26 million in each. This figure however, declined in the following years to become JD 23.9 million in 1985, and JD 20 million in 1986 and, according to Mulqi, because of a decline in sales of real estate.

Mulqi said that non-Jordanians can buy real estate within the municipalities' regions and can own real estate anywhere in Jordan.

of

801,985,000 Italian lire (JD 320,794 approximately).

The quarrying and processing plant was realised in less than two years with a grant of the Italian government of nearly \$3.1 million, and it was officially inaugurated in October 1988.



Mona Saudi — Woman and Mirror — Marble 1972

## Arab artists at Al Wasiti

AMMAN (J.T.) — Artists from

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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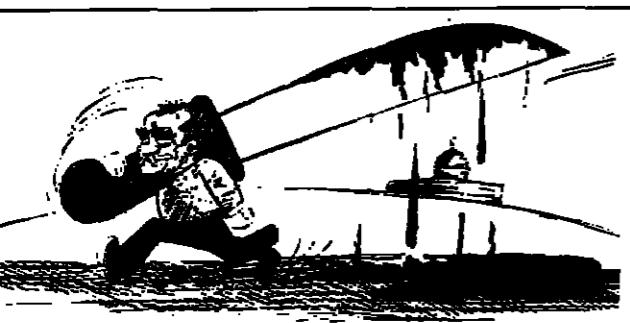
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## Go take a cold shower, Arens

WE ALWAYS knew that the Israeli leaders were immune to stenches; but this one takes the cake (or stale bread as the case may be). Sitting here in Amman, we couldn't stand the stink that entered the air through Israel Radio in the form of a charge made Saturday by the Israeli foreign minister, Moshe Arens, that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had "terrorised" the Palestinians living in the occupied territories into rejecting the election plan proposed by his boss, Yitzhak Shamir. Arens should take a day off, upgrade his reading glass (if he uses any) and look at the fine print of what the PLO and other Arab leaders have been saying ever since Shamir threw the election plan, which he apparently considers as his "master card," on the American table. There is very little ambiguity, if any at all, in the Arab/Palestinian stand: elections are welcome, but not under occupation and only as part of a broader process which should lead to a comprehensive solution, including an independent Palestinian state.

If the Israeli leaders are indeed irreversibly sold on the idea that they should convince the world that the Palestinians living under occupation favour the Shamir plan, in its original form and content, then there could only be two explanations for Arens' charge. The first is very simple — the Israeli leaders are so much used to PLO-bashing that shadow-boxing has become a way of life for them. The second has sinister implications, in that it would appear that they are convinced that their own master techniques of terrorising the occupied territories have gradually nudged the people under occupation into accepting that "something is better than nothing" and that a little more of tightening the screws will do the trick. Well, there is little doubt that the Israelis are wrong in both counts. Discrediting the PLO at every forum and instance does not yield the same results as it used to, since the organisation is gaining increasing international support for the legitimate Palestinian cause regardless of the frantic motions of the well-oiled wheels of the Zionist propaganda machine. Now comes the issue of the choice of the Palestinians living under occupation. By all standards and counts, the intifada crossed the point of no return in the first few weeks since it erupted, and the Palestinians involved in it are aware of it more than anyone else since they themselves are continuing to pay a high price in blood to maintain the momentum of the revolt. They will never settle for anything less than total liberation and independence and not "autonomy" as proffered by Shamir, Arens and company.

Perhaps, Arens should take a cold shower to clear his head and think again. It might also help wash off some of that stench.



## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai daily newspaper Saturday welcomed the new directives passed by His Majesty King Hussein to the new cabinet of Prime Minister Zaid Ibn Shaker and said that we look to the future optimistically awaiting the implementation of the King's guidelines. The paper reiterated the need for strengthening of the national unity and the need for the Jordanian people to adjust to the new realities that prevail in the region. The paper repeated some of the principles contained in the letter of designation to the new premier and said that they represented guidelines and a framework for the work of the new cabinet which is expected to re-structure public organisations, end corruption and prepare the country for parliamentary elections. The paper said that the King's directives were clear not only to the government but also to the people who are expected to join forces with the new government to achieve the aspired goals.

Al Dustour daily described the King's letter to Sharif Zaid as setting a clear course of action for the new government in all fields. The paper said that the letter dwelt on all matters of concern to the government and people and pointed to the weak points that have to be tackled by the government so that the country can rightly adjust to the new situation and stimulate the national economy and steer it into the right direction. One important point in the King's letter refers to the need to prepare for parliamentary elections, which once achieved will take the country on a sound course towards achieving its objectives, the paper noted. It said that everything should be done to uproot corruption and favouritism and all people ought to work jointly with the government to carry out the King's directives which will enable the country to attain its aspirations.

Saw Al Shaab daily said that a close study of the King's letter reveals that the government now has a complete set of directives which should be implemented to maintain the march towards development. The paper stressed that the government requires a lot of patience and diligence to carry out all the directives since the Jordanian people look to the cabinet ministers as their new hope towards a more serious efforts and further endeavours for development. The directives in the King's letter of designation to Sharif Zaid, said the paper, placed matters in their right perspectives and laid the ground for sound construction and fruitful cooperation between government and people to serve the highest interests.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Economic team leads the way

By Dr. Fadel Fawak

EACH one of the 24 portfolios comprising the newly-formed cabinet has a close relation and impact, one way or another, on the economy and the financial situation of the country. Even ministries such as education, public health, defence, and justice have major roles in influencing the economy.

In a narrower sense, at least half the ministries are directly related to the supervision of specialised areas of the production, or consumption sectors of the economy, such as the ministries of supplies, energy and mineral resources, agriculture, water and irrigation, labour, public works and housing, tourism and antiquities, and transport and communications.

However, in a stricter sense, the economic ministries that will have a full scale impact on the path of national economy as a whole, and that will formulate the economic plan and the financial policy of the state, are the ministries of finance, industry and trade, and planning. These three ministries were entrusted to Mr. Basil Jardean, Mr. Ziad Annab, and Dr. Ziad Fariz respectively. I can call those economists the "economic team" of the new government, after of course adding Mr. Taher Al Masri who will be the coordinator of economic policies on behalf of the prime minister.

I can safely say that this team of four ministers may be

considered as the best team in town to deal with the current difficult circumstances. The quality of this team can be judged by various criteria such as, scientific knowledge, practical experience, management effectiveness, personal integrity and above all credibility, public confidence, and the ability to interact with the people. They all score very high in all these points.

Certain circumstances work against this team and make their job more difficult, while another set of circumstances work in their favour and make their success easier. The major difficulty they will have to face is of course the large scale dimension and seriousness of the crisis they set to solve, the volume and extent of the financial problem Jordan faces, the radical revision and reevaluation called for, the new policies that must be formulated, and the high expectations from within and without.

The favourable circumstances which should help them include a general climate in which everyone seems to be willing to recognise that problem exists after a long and meaningless process of denial, the ministers' ability to face up to the challenges, the people's acceptability of the sacrifices needed, and the fact that nothing is beyond evaluation, revision, and reform by hands and minds that did not play a part in leading the economy into sliding to the

crisis. Jordan is not the first or only country to face a major economic crisis. Many countries experienced similar challenges. Some set up their minds on the objective succeeded in overcoming the crisis and resumed growth and prosperity after a painful transitional period of time, be it short or long. Other countries failed. They allowed the crisis to develop into a full economic collapse, and started to experience shortages of all kinds that deteriorated into famine. They then started to depend on international relief organisations to take care of their people and provide them with food and medicine.

Jordan does have all that is needed to succeed and overcome the crisis, as long as we have the national will and the healthy atmosphere required.

We wish our economic team every success and promise not to spare them of constructive criticism, friendly pressure, dialogue and new ideas to the extent allowed by the healthier climate we hope for, especially since everyone now realises that the policy of information blackout and the praise of every decision or policy taken by the government did not advance the situation, but rather advanced the problem to grow.

## Early assessments in, Bush not yet tested

By Donald M. Rothberg  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At the 100-day mark of his presidency, George Bush is receiving the first reviews of his presidency before any real test of his ability to handle the job.

The early assessments offer neither lavish praise nor harsh criticism. Bush wins praise for his attempts at bipartisanship and his open style, but catches grief for his failure to articulate any direction other than an intention to pursue a moderate version of the policies of predecessor Ronald Reagan.

Even Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has expressed impatience with how long it is taking the new administration to complete its foreign policy review.

Perhaps the most difficult ordeal of the Bush administration's first months was the fight over his nomination of John Tower to be secretary of defence.

The Senate rejected the nomination after a long, partisan bloodbath, an event sure to leave scars. But despite widespread expectations that it would signal Congress' intent to challenge the new president for dominance, the bitter fight has largely faded from memory.

While Reagan was president, he clearly was the dominant figure in Washington.

In fact, Bush's willingness to work with the Democratic-controlled Congress has led to compromises on the budget and aid to Nicaragua rebels, issues on which the Reagan administration never came close to agreement with the Democrats.

"I think he's done a pretty good job," said Senate majority leader George Mitchell. He said benchmarks like 100-day assessments were "completely arbitrary... simply a creation of others."

While there is no magic to the 100-day mark, Bush himself walked into that trap. The day after his landslide victory, he said, "we will now have 100 days to formulate a game plan, a first-100-days priorities, if you will, and they'll be specific, and I will do my level best to fulfill my commitments to the American people."

No such specific game plan emerged, either during the transition or in his inaugural address, which was more an exercise in setting a stylistic tone than spelling out an agenda.

"A good start," was the president's own low-key assessment of his first three months in office.

He cited bipartisan agreements with Congress on the budget and contra aid and his plan to stabilise the troubled savings and loan industry.

Presidential scholar James David Barber of Duke University was less generous: "I think his grade is incomplete. We still have yet to see what he's going to do, if anything."

But the ultimate tests of presidents are events that adhere to no timetables.

Let the economy turn sour, the stock market drop or interest rates, inflation or unemployment jump; or let America's image abroad be shaken by a terrorist act or other foreign policy crisis and the public will take its measure of the president's philosophical bearings and leadership ability.

Bush has not yet faced a major crisis. His predecessors, Reagan and Jimmy Carter, are remembered far differently for their ability to deal with hard times.

Few presidents could match

adversity, whether it was the prolonged recession that marked his first two years in the White House or the deaths of 241 American servicemen in 1983, when a bomb destroyed a U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon.

Few presidents showed less talent for dealing with adversity than Carter, who was unable to deflect public unease over an economy battered by OPEC and the frustration that built during the Iranian hostage crisis.

At the 100-day mark of their administrations, Reagan and Carter either couldn't predict or didn't recognise the events on which their terms would be judged.

Carter began with the image of a president with a distinctive style who knew where he wanted to go. He gave a positive assessment of his first 100 days, citing his energy programme, nuclear arms reduction proposals and emphasis on human rights.

For years later, Reagan was firmly in charge and looking certain to win congressional approval of his tax and budget cutting proposals. He weathered an assassination attempt and gave a clear demonstration of the style and wit that would serve him so well throughout his presidency.

While Reagan was president, he clearly was the dominant figure in Washington.

In fact, Bush was less a commanding figure than his predecessor.

"For six of his eight years, Reagan had a Republican Senate," said Mitchell. "I think there was a marked difference between Reagan's first six years and his last two (when the Democrats were back in control of the Senate)... I think the fairer test is Bush's first months against Reagan's last two years and there, I think the difference is not so great."

The Maine Democrat called Bush's effort to reach out to Congress "a marked improvement over the Reagan years." He cited the agreement on contra aid, which he said was "an initiative of his administration."

But Bush didn't escape free of criticism. Mitchell said there was "a complete failure of leadership on the Alaska oil spill," and he criticised Bush's stands on legislation to increase the minimum wage and to intervene in the Eastern Air Lines strike.

Although presidents traditionally travel around the country to drum up support for specific policies or programmes, Bush's message in the nine cities he visited appeared to lack focus, ranging from the capital gains tax

on investment profits in one speech to illicit drugs in another.

Unmentioned by Bush were a host of international developments that almost completely eclipsed the trip in terms of publicity: The purge in the Kremlin, Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's announcement he was resigning in disgrace, massive student protests in China and the rift between the United States and West Germany over short-range nuclear forces.

Bush also ignored what has been perhaps his most significant actions to date: His decision to cut funds for the so-called "Star Wars" defence against enemy missiles and a compromise with Congress on modernising the U.S. land-based strategic arsenal with a mix of mobile MX and Midgetman missiles.

The scene encapsulated George Bush's emerging approach to leadership — accenting folksiness and accessibility sometimes at the expense of the substantive acts of his presidency.

Bush's visit to the baseball game came during his first extended domestic trip, a four-day coast-to-coast journey that provided a symbolic cap to his first 100 days in office.

Although presidents traditionally travel around the country to drum up support for specific policies or programmes, Bush's message in the nine cities he visited appeared to lack focus, ranging from the capital gains tax

on investment profits in one speech to illicit drugs in another.

In an address to the Texas state legislature, Bush declared: "I'm no cowboy — I pitch horseshoes for a living..." He made that baffling statement in boasting about his close ties to his adopted home state, where he became an oil millionaire more than 30 years ago.

Bush's lowest rhetorical point may have come when he told an audience that cutting the country's huge budget deficit was an exercise similar to walking a dog.

He visited Reagan briefly in Los Angeles during his six-state swing but no details of their talks were released.

Bush also participated in some

unpresidential events, including a tree-planting ceremony in North Dakota and the dedication of a centre for elderly Alzheimer's disease patients in Florida.

Sometimes Bush is unintentionally comical.

"I want to give a high-five symbol to high-tech," he declared during a speech in California's Silicon Valley, where many computer and other high technology firms are located.

"High-five" refers to the exuberant handshakes exchanged by athletes in sports competition but Bush's meaning was not clear.

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Asked the purpose of the trip, White House chief of staff John Sununu said Bush simply wanted to take the pulse of the country

and report to various groups what he was up to.

"It's the see-me, touch-me part of communication," Sununu said. "Sometimes the idea of getting out of Washington is part of the president's responsibility and role."

Bush has been on the road one day in four during his first 100 days, visiting Asia for the funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito and taking numerous day-trips within the United States, and he will be travelling a lot during the next few weeks.

White House officials say his speeches will have a more substantive content. They said Bush hoped to unveil the long-awaited results of his strategic review in about three weeks in college graduation speeches.

He is also planning his first prime-time televised news conference in May and is to deliver a major speech on the Western alliance for the May 29-30 NATO summit in Brussels.

Rejecting criticism that the three-month-old Bush administration lacks focus, the officials pointed to recent polls that indicate more than 60 per cent of the American people like Bush's performance so far.

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## The new Swedes

It houses more immigrants than Swedes and its delicatessens are the most exotic in the country.

By Verne Moberg

**TWENTY MINUTES BY SUBWAY** from Stockholm's Central Station, Rinkeby is today one of the city's most talked-about new communities, housing the highest percentage of immigrants in all Scandinavia: 66 per cent of resident adults and 90 per cent of the children starting school have roots in other countries.

In its early days Rinkeby included only a small portion of immigrants — 12 per cent in 1973 — but through the years more and more moved in while increasing numbers of native Swedes moved out. Today the population of some 14,000 speak about 100 different languages, nearly half of which appear in books in the local library. Among the groups strongly represented in Rinkeby are Poles, Greeks, Chinese, Yugoslavs, Poles, Syrians, and Lebanese and gypsies, a total community served by some 200 social, ethnic and athletic clubs.

Such a wide array of cultural plurality often presents a pleasant alternative to everyday life in other parts of Stockholm. The busy market square, for instance, offers an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables at about half the price asked at stands in Hotorget, a square in the city centre. And a labyrinth of subterranean delicatessens sell far more exotic fare than the corner coop, Konsum. Rinkeby lacks a real bank — or even a cash dispenser for that matter — but boasts a mosque and a pretty good selection of foreign languages video shops.

Nevertheless, inside Rinkeby and out, it is generally agreed today that a problem exists and a solution is called for. What people do not agree upon is the nature of the problem — and its solution.

### Defining the problems

According to a series of articles run in *Dagens Nyheter*, Stockholm's leading daily paper, the

problem is caused not only by general prejudice but also by repeated cutbacks in social services enacted by Stockholm area government agencies.

For the constituency of Swedes — including some Rinkeby residents — who feel the problem consists of "too many immigrants," the solution has appeared to lie in the following measures: limiting future admission to Rinkeby to model families without detectable social or financial problems, thus reducing the percentage of immigrant families; also, eliminating some immigrant families already in Rinkeby if they are disruptive; rebuilding some of Rinkeby's high rise apartment buildings to make them appeal to more "desirable" — and affluent — tenants. This would involve updating the plain simplicity of the 1960s style, flat-front buildings to incorporate more fashionable 1980s architectural conventions such as eave levels, extended balconies and bay windows. Also, offering some apartments for sale to tenants.

Critics complain that such a solution would create more problems than it would solve. The expensive architectural facelift now proposed would have to be paid for not only by taxpayers but also by tenants. As many of the present residents could not afford the increases, they would have to go elsewhere, and nobody knows where.

Of course, this "urban renewal" drive is already affecting some of the Stockholm suburbs that were part of the "Million Programme" of the 1960s and 70s (an all-out campaign to address the housing shortage of those years with prefabricated highrise apartments). But there may be special cause to question the developer's motive: looking down from the hills of Rinkeby highrise, one clearly sees the suburb of Kista, destined to become Sweden's Silicon Valley, the heart of the computer industry. The highly skilled personnel of this burgeoning industry will need places to live nearby and will be able to afford



One of Rinkeby's few remaining Swedish families

high housing costs; hence, land values are liable to rise. Is it any coincidence that politicians and housing administrators are no longer interested in renting to great numbers of low-income immigrants?

Such suspicions, widespread in Rinkeby today, increase in credibility for the outsider who takes the trouble to inquire into the community's possible positive qualities, of which there are many.

### Friendly mood

Reporter Lotte Moller, who lived in Rinkeby for a week while preparing an article for the Swedish magazine *Vi*, concluded that here "isolation is less than in other suburbs thanks to the immigrants' strong family cohesion and cultural identity." I would agree.

On my own visit to Rinkeby I was much impressed, not only by the very non-Swedish sound level (people actually talk out loud in public) but also by the friendly mood: individuals seem to watch

out for each other and tend to stop and talk. Generally, the residents I met liked Rinkeby.

Lakotritis Kessidis, who immigrated from Greece in 1971, has lived in Rinkeby since 1973. Not only is he a full-time recreation leader; he is also a wrestling coach for Rinkeby international sports club and a key figure in local business: he imports watermelons from Greece to retailers throughout Stockholm. Acquainting Swedes with this southern fruit has required patience: "A few ask if you fry it or if it grows on trees." But Kessidis is content here. "Rinkeby is a great place to live — I have friends from all over the world. And my sons have their friends here and don't want to leave. But the Swedes are moving out."

Another immigrant I met was Palestinian clothing salesman Hasan Zatara, who came to Sweden in 1969 (to Rinkeby in 1971). After trying immigration in a number of countries in the Middle East, Zatara decided to come back to Rinkeby. "When

we new Swedes return to our original countries," he told me, "then we feel like immigrants."

In the beginning, in Rinkeby, he tried to make friends with his Swedish neighbours, paying a visit with coffee, cake, and flowers, but was given the brush-off: his favours weren't returned. However, he hasn't given up, he says, and always talks to people. "What's good about Rinkeby is that you feel at home. We're like one big family. We visit each other, knock on each other's doors... Everybody says hello."

As second generation immigrant in Rinkeby who knows what it feels like to be a foreigner is Hamza Erdal, chairman of Rinkeby's Swedish-Turkish Cultural Association for Young People. Late in July he had just returned from a three-week trip to Turkey together with a group of young people from Rinkeby, accompanied by recreation leader Iris Berggren. After a flight to Istanbul, the group visited Ankara and eventually the little town of Kulu, from which many of today's Tur-

kish Swedes emigrated. As he and his companions walked around Olf Palme Square, Kulu residents would say, "There go the Swedes from Rinkeby," and then knew how his father felt beginning an immigrant in Sweden in the 1960s. It was "an incredible experience" to be in Turkey together, Hamza Erdal said. "They cried when we left. Many in our group talked of returning." Another group of second generation immigrants is hoping to go to Poland.

People who worry about "too many immigrants" are quick to mention the troubles and immigrant children supposedly have in expressing themselves. Such problems surely exist, and not enough good language instruction (in either Swedish or other languages) is available, but interestingly enough some experts in

these areas are not at all worried about the kids' alleged inadequacies. American emigre Eli Berg — urban studies educator, artist and veteran Rinkeby booster — teaches drawing to immigrant children from her Old Town Urban Studies Centre in Stockholm and is frequently delighted by their creativity and powers of articulation. Together with author Gunilla Lundgren, she helped the children produce a series of books of drawings, prose and poetry, expressing their vision of Rinkeby and also of Stockholm's Old Town.

Much of the children's work, believes Berg, depicts a quality of "similarity," an overlay of past memories on present vision which functions as a special kind of cultural juxtaposition or metaphor that is artistically interesting. — (Sweden Now).

## A harsh life in Lima's 'Pueblos Jóvenes'

In other cities they are called shanty towns, barrios or slums, but the Peruvians have another, more optimistic term for the ramshackle settlements that seem to spring up overnight around their capital city. They prefer to call them "pueblos jóvenes", or new towns. Perched on the desert-like hills surrounding Lima, they are a patchwork of sticks, dried mud, thatch and an occasional tin roof — though most of the huts lack even that minor amenity. Fortunately, it does not rain much in Lima.

**LIMA** — The last 15 years have brought explosive growth to the population of Peru's capital and the city has nearly doubled in size from 3.2 million in 1972 to roughly six million today. Needless to say, public services have not kept pace with this frenetic expansion. Drinkable water, electricity, even police protection are unknown in the pueblos jóvenes which the government views as illegal squatters' invasions. All together, more than 60 per cent of Lima's people live either in the pueblos jóvenes that ring the outside of the city or in "lugares", the squatter slums of the centre.

Life in the pueblos jóvenes is harsh, but not altogether lacking in hope. The squatters wait patiently for recognition of their claim to the land they have occupied, and as soon as it is received there is inevitably a wave of building activity as thatch huts give way to more solid housing and the gradual transformation into a normal city neighbourhood begins. But in the meantime, the people of the pueblos jóvenes live with squalor, sickness and crime. Many dogs roam the streets, the only protection their owners get from having their belongings stolen in the night. Contagious diseases spread rapidly in the unsanitary, crowded conditions.

Easing the burden of life in the pueblos jóvenes is one way that Peru is using food aid provided by the World Food Programme. In 71 mothers' clubs throughout the city, food aid is not only improving nutrition among the poor but also acting as an incentive for women to join in a host of small commercial ventures — baking, weaving, knitting — just about any activity a woman can do at the home. The food aid is being provided through a project called PAPFAM which is intended to assist vulnerable groups.

At Sarita Colonia, a squatter settlement on the outskirts of the city, a brand new bakery has just begun operation using two tomes



of donated wheat flour and a commercial stove provided by Canada. Forty-three women from six local mothers' clubs are now working in the bakery. Once the mothers' clubs bake enough bread to meet local needs, Cooperation de Desarrollo, a government agency, plans to buy the excess for use in its school-feeding programme.

Though the bakery has barely begun operating, the women already have ambitious plans. The head of one mothers' club explains, "we will expand the bakery to make empanadas, pies and sweets that we can sell. Then we will use the money to begin our own store." The store's purpose is to provide food and consumer goods to members at prices below those charged by Lima's retailers.

The women at Sarita Colonia will work in small groups after an initial training period. The first group is trained; they will be responsible for training the next and so on. Eventually ONAA, the national food-aid office, hopes to use the bakery as a model for similar projects in other pueblos jóvenes.

Across town, another mothers' club is running a different sort of business, a "comedor popular" or people's kitchen. The women get together and cook meals using commodities supplied by WFP — milk, meat, oil and maize meal — which they then sell, at drastically reduced prices, to other women in their club. The proceeds are used to buy extra ingredients, pots and new stoves, and to help hold down the price of the meals themselves.

A woman running one of the kitchens, Marta Vera, offers a brief history of how her comedor popular first began.

Two years ago, a survey was made in our area and it showed that we had a very high percentage of malnourished children. They said ten per cent were sev-

## Chinese medicine comes to Spain

By Godrum Gremke  
Reuter

**AMPOSTA** — Spanish entrepreneur Ramon Maria Caldúch went to Peking in a desperate search for a cure to the disease which western doctors said would kill his small son within two years.

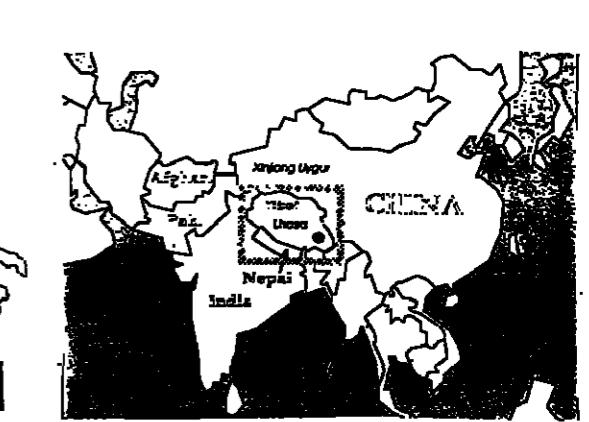
When a doctor in a traditional Chinese medicine stopped two-year-old Joan's decline and promised a complete cure for his little-known illness, Caldúch brought him halfway round the world to start a clinic in this small Catalan town.

Now Joan's treatment continues within easy reach of his family, and people come from all over Spain to the Guan Anmen clinic, which opened in January. Its two doctors, acupuncturist Zhang Zhongqi and traumatologist Zhang Tao, already have a waiting list of two to three months.

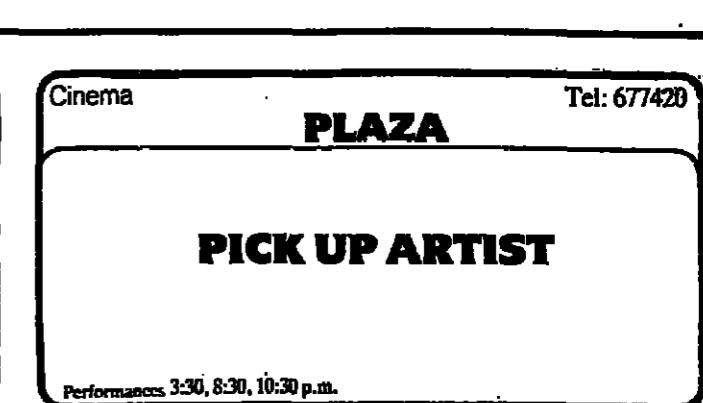
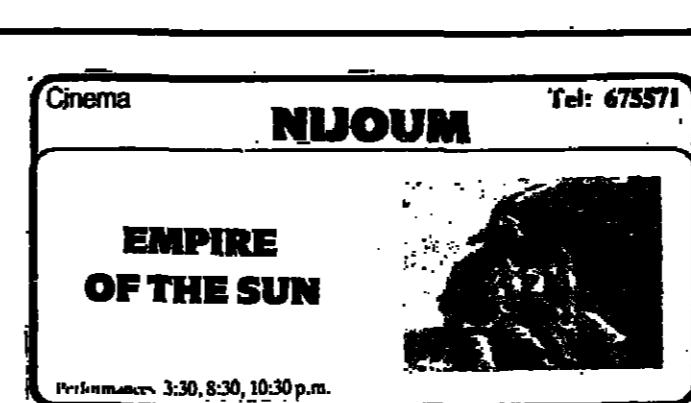
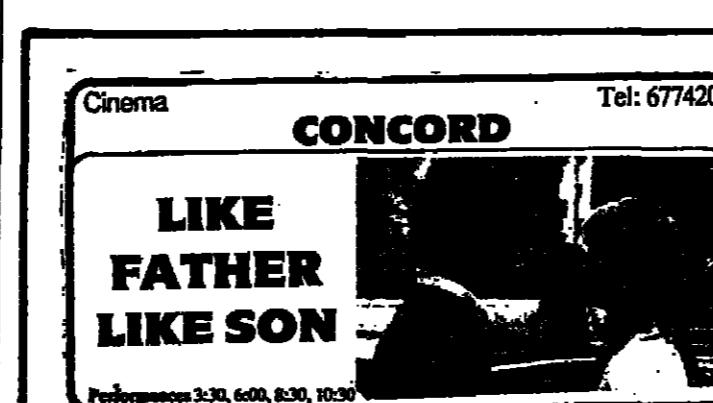
The clinic, which Caldúch says is the first of its kind outside China, is a joint venture between Caldúch's company RMC Consulting and the Guan Anmen clinic in Peking, with each partner holding 50 per cent.

The Peking doctors say they were disconcerted at first in Amposta, which has a population of just 15,000.

"We have got used to this small place," Zhang Zhongqi said with a smile, recalling their first puzzled reaction had been to ask where all the people were.



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## Washington accuses 34 nations of unfair commercial practices

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's administration Friday charged 34 countries with erecting significant trade barriers against U.S. products, launching a process that could result in retaliation against nations that refuse to open their doors to American goods.

The U.S. review, ordered by the 1988 U.S. trade law, has raised fears from Bonn to Tokyo about what actions the United States might take against countries it brands as persistently unfair traders.

Japan was given the most space in Friday's report with 18 pages of complaints about trade barriers. Complaints against the 12-nation European Community and South Korea occupied nine pages each.

In all, "the national trade estimate report on foreign trade barriers" singled out 34 separate nations, the European Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council, a trading group which includes Saudi Arabia, as trading partners with major barriers to U.S. products.

The report, prepared by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, is the first step in drawing up a "hit list" of priority countries the administration will target for intensive negotiations aimed at getting the trade barriers eliminated. That priority list, drawn from the countries mentioned, Friday, is due May 30.

The requirement for a target list of countries, known as the "Super 30" provision, is the most controversial section of the 1988 omnibus trade act.

Many economists worry that it could set off a global trade war in which U.S. efforts to punish unfair trade practices are met by counter-retaliation against American products.

Foreign governments, which are concerned by the tight deadlines for negotiations to be completed, have already mounted an intensive lobbying effort to keep from being placed on the priority list.

Inside the administration, there is a debate raging as well over whether to put Japan on the priority list.

Joshua Bolten, general counsel of the U.S. Trade Office, told reporters that the decision about which countries to target on May 30 would reflect such factors as the amount of U.S. trade being kept out by a particular barrier.

"We have to set priorities and decide which practices to push the hardest on," Bolten said.

The United States must initiate negotiations with the countries on the priority list with a deadline of achieving results within 18 months. The countries then would have three years to live up to the agreements and remove the trade barriers America finds offensive.

Should the negotiations prove

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Israel expands weekend for employees

TEL AVIV (R) — Some 20,000 Israeli civil servants will work five days a week instead of six from May 1 under an agreement signed by government, trade union and employer representatives Friday. The employees will now take Friday off as well as Saturday. The agreement does not yet apply to 140,000 workers in government health, education and customs services and banks. A committee will be appointed to decide whether to cut Friday or Sunday from the banking week. Some banks said they must work Friday because it was an international business day.

### Iran buys Yugoslavian cigarettes

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranians will soon be smoking Balkan cigarettes under a \$50 million agreement signed with Yugoslavia, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said that Iran had agreed to buy a total of one billion cigarettes from the state-run Yugoslav firm General Export, and already was discussing the purchase of another billion. Swiss quality-control experts will check the Yugoslav tobacco, IRNA said.

### Morocco relaxes exchange controls

RABAT (R) — Morocco has relaxed exchange controls to attract hard currency transfers from a million emigrant workers whose remittances slumped suddenly last year. In a circular to banks, the Office des Changes Exchange Bureau said Moroccans resident abroad could in future open convertible foreign currency accounts in Morocco with a minimum of 50,000 dirhams (\$6,000). The previous minimum was 500,000 dirhams (\$60,000). Transfers from emigrant workers slumped by 21 per cent last year to the equivalent of \$1.25 billion, slipping from first to second place behind phosphates as a foreign currency source. Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada said he hoped to be able to abolish exchange controls by 1992 if hard currency reserves permitted. Exchange controls are being gradually relaxed under a liberalisation policy. Last week it was announced that Moroccan residents could transfer abroad 2,000 dirhams (\$240) at a time, by means of a simple procedure through banks or the post office, to pay for minor services in foreign countries.

### W. German inflation rate rises to 3%

WIESBADEN (R) — West Germany's inflation rate rose a provisional 0.6 per cent in April to an annual level of three per cent, according to official data issued. The Federal Statistics Office said the rise in the cost of living index was mainly caused by higher oil prices, which boosted light heating oil and fuel costs. On Tuesday, another round of petrol pump price rises was announced by oil companies in West Germany. Pump prices have risen between 15 to 17 per cent since January, with a litre of super leaded petrol costing 1.38 marks (74 cents). Last Thursday West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, cited inflation as a reason for raising its key interest rates. A report by West Germany's five leading economic research institutes said inflation was the main cloud on the country's otherwise clear economic horizon. It said inflation would rise to three per cent this year, compared with an average 1.2 per cent in 1988. The Bonn government said in January it expects inflation at around 2.5 per cent in 1989.

### Italian premier scolds ministers

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita has told the squabbling members of his crumbling government he will resign unless they back his unpopular economic policies. De Mita's year-old, five-party coalition almost collapsed Wednesday for the second time in two weeks because of disputes over economic policy, especially a highly unpopular decree imposing charges for health care. On Thursday night, the cabinet finally approved changes to soften the decree, setting an annual ceiling of 200,000 lire (\$145) for hospital charges. "I declare that from now on... I will publicly invite anyone who expresses disagreement with decisions taken by the cabinet to resign... If this invitation is not accepted I will use all possible constitutional measures, not excluding a government crisis," he said. This means he would bring down the government by resigning.

### Japan's unemployment rate falls

TOKYO (AP) — The jobless rate for March declined, while the number of job offers increased, according to government reports. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was 2.3 per cent, the lowest level in four consecutive months since last December. The number of people who were unemployed involuntarily in March was 1.6 million, down 170,000 compared to the previous month.

Some in the administration have expressed concerns about applying further trade pressure on Japan at a time the country is facing internal turmoil with the announced resignation of Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

However, congressional supporters of a more aggressive trade policy have argued that Japan must be placed on the list, given the huge trade surpluses that country has run up with the United States.

Senator Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said last week the administration would be "cutting the heart out of" the new trade law if it didn't target Japan.

## Argentina rolls money presses after running out of banknotes

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's money presses are working around the clock to print up to nine million banknotes after a sudden shortage paralysed the country's banking system, official sources said.

"I don't know how we're going

to do it, but the money has got to be there Monday," a senior central bank source told Reuters.

The government, beset by hyper-inflation and interest rates of up to 110 per cent a month with elections only two weeks away, was forced to declare Friday a

banking and foreign exchange holiday after it ran out of banknotes.

Thousands of Argentines who had hoped to cash their pay cheques Friday before a long weekend were left stranded without money and long queues built up at automatic teller machines.

A federal mint source said managers are working six-hour shifts around the clock to supervise production of seven to nine million 1,000-aural (\$12) bills, the biggest denomination in circulation.

A 1,000-aural bill was worth about \$30 early in February.

The mint was unable to start producing new 5,000-aural (\$60) bills this weekend because it lacked the inks required for them, he added.

Foreign bankers told Reuters the government had assured them the cash crisis would be solved by Tuesday when banks reopen after the Labour Day holiday.

Banking sources said cash dispensers were expected to exhaust their supplies of notes over the weekend.

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previous year. Japan's jobless rate would be higher if calculated by U.S. or European methods since self-defence force personnel and people working more than one hour during the last week of the month — when data is tabulated — are counted as being employed. The number of employed Japanese in March totalled 60 million, up 1.1 million, or 1.9 per cent, compared to the same month in 1988, showing healthy economic growth. Non-agricultural employees increased by 1.5 million to 45 million from March 1988, while the number of service workers increased by 600,000, or 4.8 per cent; manufacturing workers by 210,000 or 1.5 per cent and construction workers by 140,000, or 1.5 per cent from last year.

### French trade gap narrows

PARIS (R) — France posted a trade deficit for March which was only one-tenth of the size that the financial markets had been expecting. A more robust industrial performance, especially in the military sector, helped close the gap. Customs officials said the deficit narrowed in March to 263 million francs (\$42 million) from a revised 400 million francs (\$65 million) in February. The markets had forecast a deficit as high as 2.7 billion francs (\$435 million), fearing higher oil prices. France imports almost all its oil. Imports rose three per cent to 96.6 billion francs (\$15.5 billion) while exports rose fractionally faster to 96.4 billion francs (\$15.5 billion), customs data showed. The energy deficit rose 14 per cent, but the surplus on military goods, of which France is a major exporter, helped offset that and brought a higher 2.1 billion francs (\$338 million) into a better overall industrial performance.

### Mexico gets \$250m World Bank loan

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government has announced that the World Bank had approved a \$250 million line of credit to be used to improve Mexican industry. The treasury department said in a statement that the credit line will be used specifically for agriculture and the manufacture of textiles and auto parts. The loan must be repaid within 17 years, which includes a five-year grace period, the statement said. The interest rate, which currently is 7.65 per cent, will be variable.

## Mobil quits S. Africa

NEW YORK (AP) — Mobil Corp., the largest U.S. company in South Africa, announced Friday it is pulling out of that country after 90 years and is selling its assets to a South African company.

Mobil has insisted since 1986, when Exxon Corp., the biggest U.S. oil company, left South Africa, that it would not bow to pressure to divest. In the last four years more than 170 American firms have withdrawn from that country because of South Africa's race policies. Most said their operations at what were considered low prices to South African-controlled business.

Mobil employed almost 2,800 people in South Africa and had been a symbol of foreign business reluctance to leave the country, despite widespread condemnation of the white-led government's suppression of the black majority in the system known as apartheid.

"This was a difficult decision because we continue to believe

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Saturday, April 29, 1989		Central Bank official rates	
		Swiss franc	320.6	324.0	
		French franc	84.6	85.2	
	Buy	Japanese yen (for 100)	404.5	408.4	
	Sell	Dutch guilder	233.2	235.0	
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	538.0	542.0	
Pound Sterling	906.5	916.0	906.5	916.0	
Deutschmark	283.8	288.7	283.8	288.7	
		Belgian franc (for 10)	136.7	137.8	

### Switzerland plans to ease taxes on bond, share trading

ZURICH (R) — The Swiss government Friday announced plans to ease taxes on trading in shares and bonds, but angered the country's banks by saying it wanted to impose new taxes on the funds they manage for wealthy clients.

Announcing a tax reform programme at a news conference in Berne, Finance Minister Otto Stich said he was willing to lift the stamp duties on securities trading provided the lost revenue could be clawed back.

"The proposals to reform the stamp duties are aimed at strengthening Switzerland's international competitiveness as a financial centre," he said.

Swiss banks had campaigned against the duties for years, saying they were losing money as their clients did business in London and other financial centres to beat the Swiss taxman.

Every time a share or bond is traded in Switzerland, both buyer and seller must pay taxes of up to 0.3 per cent.

The Swiss Bankers' Association said it was glad that the government was at last going to do something about the stamp duties after talking about them for five years.

### Taxing fiduciary deposits

But it condemned the proposal to tax fiduciary deposits — money which banks invest on behalf of companies or wealthy individuals — as unconstitutional, incomprehensible and counter-productive.

"This tax would be a burden on assets which are administered by Swiss banks primarily for foreign customers. It would lead to institutional investors withdrawing their capital from Swiss banks," the association said in a statement.

Stich acknowledged that his proposal faced considerable opposition, but he said business had to bear its fair share of taxes.

"The tax burden (on fiduciary deposits) will be light in comparison with the capital gains that can be made, and the danger of business moving elsewhere is limited," he said.

He gave no precise details of his plans but said easing stamp duties would cost 600 million Swiss francs (\$360 million) per year in lost revenue.

To help compensate, the government also plans new taxes on life insurance policies.

It announced changes in sales taxes, which will in future be extended to cover services as well as goods, but decided against introducing value-added tax (VAT).

The tax reforms could take years to become law. They must be approved by parliament and also by popular vote in a national referendum.

### Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	3000	4950	1.630	1.650	1.000
Petra Bank	—	—	1.990	1.990	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	7611	15675	2.000	1.990	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	3829	5366	1.410	1.410	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	24100	29845	1.240	1.230	1.000
Housing Bank	145	268	1.890	1.890	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	393	5954	15.150	15.120	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1070	156981	148.250	146.750	10.000
Jordan National Bank	10820	26128	2.470	2.410	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	1000	2100	2.300	2.350</	

### Wilander thrashed in straight sets

MONTI CARLO (R) — Argentine teenager Alberto Mancini handed Mats Wilander his most humiliating defeat on his favoured clay surface with a 6-0, 6-3 thrashing at the Monte Carlo Open tennis Grand Prix Saturday.

Mancini, ranked 31st in the world, dominated the match so thoroughly that the Swedish world number two managed only seven points in a first set that lasted just 24 minutes.

The 19-year-old, who surprised Wilander last month by beating him at Key Biscayne in their only previous meeting, blasted winner after winner past the bewildered Swede.

"I didn't think I would beat him so easily," Mancini said. "I thought it would be a tough match but as I had beaten him once I thought I could beat him twice."

With his victory, Mancini advanced to only his second Grand Prix final. He beat Spaniard Emilio Sanchez to win his previous one in Bologna, Italy, last June.

### Rono to skip World Cup

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Olympic 1,500 metres champion Peter Rono of Kenya said Friday that he would most likely skip this summer's top athletic meeting, the IAAF World Cup.

"I will be in school then, and I consider school to be very important," Rono, a student at Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, told Reuters when asked whether he would compete in the Barcelona meeting on September 8-10.

Two other prominent Seoul Olympic champions — Kenya's 800-metre champion Paul Ereng and American Carl Lewis, the

Wilander, who won three of the four Grand Slam titles last year but is now without a tournament win for almost seven months, said he was not unduly dejected by his defeat.

"He played unbelievably well," he said. "It's hard to do anything when somebody plays like that."

I've never played someone who hits with so much speed from both sides. He doesn't have a weak stroke. If you play deep or short, he still plays with spin and fast."

"It's good to get this lesson. I've beaten some good players here but I still can't beat the best on clay."

"I think I'm going in the right direction but obviously it will take a while."

Mancini took the first eight games before Wilander held his serve and only cracked once — when he led 4-1 and 40-0 on his serve in the second set.

Five successive errors gave Wilander a break



Looking good: all eyes (except two) focused on the Cheltenham Gold Cup recently

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Krishnan meets Canter in finals

TOYOTA (AP) — Top-seeded Ramesh Krishnan of India and second-seeded Jonathan Carter of the United States will meet Sunday in the finals of the Dunlop Masters Tennis Tournament. Krishnan, ranked 62nd in the world, trounced no. 3 seed Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-1, 6-3 in a semi-final match Saturday. In his semi-final, Carter lost the second set but rallied and beat fourth-seeded Andrew Castle of Britain 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 on the hard court of Nagoya Green club in central Japan.

#### Victory last year inspire Lawson at Jerez

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA (R) — Three times world champion Eddie Lawson, hungry for success after switching teams from Yamaha to Honda, could notch his first win of the season in Sunday's 500cc Spanish Motorcycling Grand Prix. The American won here last year in the relocated Portuguese Grand Prix, revelling in the twisting 4.22-km circuit, where he holds the lap record of one minute 49.29 seconds. And he will be without some of his stiffer opposition. Two top Australian riders, 1987 world champion Wayne Gardner and Kevin Magee, equal third in the 1989 standings, are out with broken legs sustained in the chaotic U.S. Grand Prix earlier this month. But Lawson still has to contend with fellow American Wayne Rainey, runaway winner in the U.S. race where the defending champion came a distant third.

#### Welterweight champion undergoes surgery

NEW YORK (R) — World Boxing Association welterweight champion Mark Breland underwent surgery on his left knee Friday to repair damage suffered in his successful title defense earlier this month, his promoters said. Dr. Norman Scott performed arthroscopic surgery at a New York Hospital to repair a torn ligament. The initial diagnosis of torn cartilage turned out to be incorrect, said Kathy Duva, spokeswoman for the champion's promoters. Breland, a 1984 Olympic gold medalist, injured the knee during the second round of his bout with Rafael Pineda, but went on to stop the previously undefeated Colombian in the fifth round. Breland, who is already recuperating at home, should be able to resume training in eight-to-10 weeks but will not fight for approximately four months, Duva said.

#### American Cayard wins in Yugoslavia

ROVINJ, Yugoslavia (R) — American skipper Paul Cayard won the fourth world match racing yachting championship event of this season by beating reigning world champion Chris Dickson of New Zealand Friday. Cayard and Dickson, unbeaten after seven round-robin races in the first two days, both made starting mistakes in light winds, but the American recovered better and won the duel by a clear minute. The skipper of the famous "Kiwi" 12-metre boat in the America's Cup in 1987, Dickson later lost another race to former Italian class 470 world champion Tommaso Chieffi, but preserved his second place in the event. Competing in his only match event this season and replacing absent fellow-American Rod Davis, winner of the first two races this year, Cayard won all his races but his victory over Chieffi was annulled for a rules infringement.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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#### LORE vs. LOGIC

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ Q 10 4 3  
♥ K Q  
♦ Q 8 5  
♣ K Q 9 2

**EAST**  
♦ 8 7  
♥ K 9 6  
♦ 9 8 5 4  
♣ 7 6 3 2

**WEST**  
♦ A 10 7 6 4 2  
♥ 9  
♦ 8  
♣ A 10 7 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♦ A J 5 2  
♥ A J 10  
♦ K J 3  
♣ J 6 5

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass  
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

The sum of bidding is to find the best contract. In order of desirability, the preferred game contracts are four of a major if an eight-card fit exists; three no trump if there is no major fit; and five of a minor, or possibly four of a major on a seven-card fit, only if neither of the first two options is viable.

However, that does not mean you should follow this dictum slavishly.

There are some hands that call for judgment. Study this hand from a recent rubber-bridge game at New York's Cavendish Club.

South might have jumped to two no trump at his first turn, but he introduced his major suit in case his partner held four spades and an unbalanced hand. Once the 4-4 fit was located, South showed his strength and balanced distribution by jumping to three no trump, and North corrected to four spades, wrongly in our opinion.

North also has a balanced hand, a host of secondary values and a stopper in every suit. Since South almost surely has the ace of hearts, declarer will not need a heart ruff in dummy. There is no reason why North should presume that the major suit will be superior.

The punishment exceeded the crime. West led a club to his partner's ace. A diamond was returned to the ace, and the defenders proceeded to collect two ruffs in each minor, for down three!

Three no trump would have been easy. To reinforce our bidding point, change any two side-suit queens in the North hand for a minor-suit ace, and see how easy a contract four spades is now.

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### YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Home is where your heart is. Aspects, to the moon in Pisces, comfort us and bring out the sentimental, spiritual glow from which we can draw positive energy.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A dynamic day exists when a lot is to take action. Starting a new project will satisfy creative cravings. Show off your gourmet talents.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Someone under the delusion that you are a horn of plenty. Stand firm and say no to those who take more than they give.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You excel at applying creative talents to your career. A feeling of renewal appears when you are able to provide extras.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your memory could come up short from lack of concentration. Double-check everything, and use caution when you feel foggy.

**LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) It may be hard to tell if you are pushing or pulling, everyone along today. Your high energy is not shared by others until evening.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Sulkiness, or the quiet treatment, will make relationships worse. Sibling disobedience can be controlled with new and exciting games.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Uncramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**LURRA**

**GOUNY**

**CLUSKE**

**LEGBIT**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "CLOSER" & "LEGIT"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's **JUMBLE**: **SKIMP**, **USURY**, **CORNER**, **GEYSER**

Answer: He can drink any given amount — **A SPONGER**

### Tottenham follows up fortune

LONDON (R) — Resurgent Tottenham underlined their sweeping change of fortune this season by trouncing Millwall 5-0 away on a day when the top four teams in the English soccer league were not in action.

In Scotland, Glasgow Rangers lifted the Premier League crown when they crushed Hearts 4-0 and nearest rivals Aberdeen were held to a goalless draw by Celtic.

A hat-trick by striker Paul Stewart fired Tottenham to a victory that kept the London club in fifth place — a stark contrast to their plight five months ago when they were next to bottom of the 20-team division.

Rangers clinched the league title for the second time in three years with one of their most accomplished performances in which two goals apiece from Mel Sterland and Kevin Drinkwater helped to brush aside visitors Hearts.

Manager Graeme Souness has spent in excess of £8 million (\$13 million) in his search for a trophy-winning team, who have now completed the second stage of their bid for a treble triumph.

Liverpool, in mourning for

their fans who were crushed to

death at the F.A. Cup semifinal

against Nottingham Forest, return to their title defence next Wednesday, and leaders Arsenal face third-placed Norwich Monday.

Tottenham's free-scoring performance against their London rivals continued an impressive sequence in which they have now won nine and drawn four of their last 14 league games.

With England pair Chris Waddle and Paul Gascoigne playing

telling creative roles, Tottenham took charge with a goal apiece from Paul Walsh and Stewart in the first half.

Stewart added his second after 75 minutes, substitute Vinny Samways notched the fourth, and Stewart completed his hat-trick on the stroke of full-time.

Wimbledon romped to a 4-0 home win over Newcastle that left the visitors' hopes of retaining their First Division status in tatters.

Having captured the league

cup and league championship, Rangers can complete a clean sweep of the domestic trophies by beating Glasgow arch rivals Celtic in the Scottish Cup final next month.

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With the last

## Bangladesh tornado victims face starvation, shortages

DHAKA (AP) — The tens of thousands of people who survived a storm that killed at least 700 now face critical shortages of food and medicine, officials said Saturday.

The storm injured at least 12,000 and the death toll is expected to rise as more bodies are recovered, officials said. Officials at the relief ministry said rescue workers sifting through shattered buildings in the hardest-hit villages, Saturia and Hargoz, found 40 more bodies overnight.

Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, already had been suffering from a prolonged drought before the Wednesday tornadoes and drenching rains struck.

Unofficial reports, including figures tabulated by major newspapers, placed the death toll at more than 1,000.

The army was called in to aid rescue operations and remove bodies and rubble.

### John Paul arrives in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — Pope John Paul II, on the first stop of an African tour, arrived Friday in this island-nation amid an informal truce called after six days of politically motivated street violence that claimed many lives.

The Pope arrived at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) and was met at the airport by President Didier Ratsiraka.

After greeting the president, the Pope knelt and kissed the ground. He was then welcomed by the archbishop of Madagascar, Victor Razafimahatra.

Flashbulbs flashed and a large crowd that had gathered for the Pope's arrival jostled for position.

On his flight from Rome, the Pope told reporters he was ready to meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the Vatican next fall, but that obstacles remain in the way of the first papal visit to the Soviet Union. He also called AIDS a mainly "moral" problem, as well as a health issue.

John Paul said he would welcome a meeting with Gorbachev during the Soviet leader's trip to Italy in November. It would be the first meeting between a Pope and a Soviet Communist Party



Pope John Paul

Accordig to the daily Bangladeshi Observer, at least 5,000 people are missing and 20,000 others injured, many of them in critical condition in hospitals in Dhaka and neighbouring districts levelled by the tornado.

Doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, considered the country's most modern medical facility, said no deaths were reported Saturday, but that they faced an acute shortage of medicine and blood.

About 400 people were admitted to the hospital, many of them in critical condition, a doctor said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government has asked for blood donations and set up makeshift camps to provide im-

mediate relief to the injured, authorities said.

The centre of the storm ravaged an area of 115 square kilometres in Mymensingh district about 40 kilometres northwest of Dhaka.

The storm also unleashed hail and heavy showers.

Hours before the tornado struck, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad had led nationwide prayers for rains to ease a two-month-long drought.

In Saturia, 25,000 people had congregated hours before the storm to pray for rain, residents and local authorities said.

The drought threatened to destroy half the 5.6 million-ton spring crop in the ground, Agriculture Ministry officials said. Agriculture, almost entirely dependent on rainfall, is the main occupation of most of the nation's 110 million people.

Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries with an annual

### Gorbachev faces one rival for presidency

LONDON (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev will have at least one opponent when parliament elects the country's new president next month, according to the head of the Soviet news agency TASS.

Leonid Kravchenko, director general of TASS, said Friday a group of Moscow deputies plans to present an alternative candidate to Gorbachev. He did not identify the deputies and said he did not know who their candidate was.

Asked whether maverick former Moscow party chief Boris N. Yeltsin, who was elected to the congress by a landslide 89 per cent margin on an anti-establishment platform, might run against Gorbachev, he replied:

"To stand as an alternative candidate against Gorbachev, I don't think he would want to do that."

On his arrival in Madagascar, the Pope took note of the country's severe economic difficulties, saying, "the bishops of this country are working with all their brothers, with determination, for national recovery."

John Paul and Ratsiraka were to have a private meeting at the presidential palace later Friday, and the Pope was to spend the night at the residence of the Vatican representative in Madagascar.

Opposition parties, which claim electoral fraud in the March 12 presidential elections, urged a break in the street violence. The Federation of Madagascar Churches, which supports the opposition, fraud claims, also appealed for tranquility.

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### North: You've seen the trial, now watch the show

WASHINGTON (R) — After 12 weeks of Oliver North's real trial, Americans are about to see television's version of the political intrigue that has been called everything from classic drama to farce.

Although the fate of the former White House aide is still undecided by the court, the television blockbuster "Guts and Glory — The Rise and Fall of Oliver North" begins airing Sunday.

The career of the retired colonel, on trial for his part in a secret plan to sell arms to Iran and funnel the proceeds to the Nicaraguan contra rebels, has been packaged into four hours of "docudrama."

North travelled the world in his quest for contra funding and paged the corridors of power and

wealth "Dallas."

Hall, North's blonde secretary, is famous for shredding incriminating documents and smuggling others out of the White House in her boots.

David Keith, who plays North, developed a clipped military tone for the part, wore blue contact lenses and had a gap painted on his front teeth so he could smile like North, an ex-marine and decorated war hero.

The writer of "Guts and Glory," Michael Robe, likens North to a character in a classical drama.

"Mastergate," written by the creator of the hit television series "Mash," a comedy set in the Korean War, pokes fun at a cast of high-ranking officials who scheme to arm guerrillas in the land of Ambigu by channelling money through a Hollywood film studio, Master Pictures.

North's fortunes also have set

America's creative juices flowing elsewhere, mostly toward comedy.

One of the tours for Washington visitors is "scandalous," which dwells on some infamous events in the city's past. A Fawn Hall look-alike acts as tour hostess, handing out complimentary paper shreds to passengers.

"Mastergate," a satire on government chicanery, has drawn on the Iran-contra scandal and the Watergate debacle.

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### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 5 dead as plane collides with glider

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Five people on board a Swedish plane were killed Friday when the small aircraft hit a glider and crashed near Vejle. All five people on board the plane were Swedes, police said. The plane was en route from Billund, in West Denmark, to Goteborg. The pilot of the glider parachuted safely to the ground. Wreckage was strewn over a wide area near the crash site. The cause of the collision was not immediately known.

#### Pinochet writes off new race

SANTIAGO (AP) — President Augusto Pinochet retreated Friday that he would not run in a presidential election scheduled for December, and offered limited changes to the nation's military-written constitution. Pinochet also said he would remain commander-in-chief of the army after stepping down as president in March 1990, a decision that has been criticized even by some of his own supporters. He made the comments at a news conference shortly after two new ministers were sworn in to Pinochet's 16-member cabinet. Explaining why he would not run in the Dec. 14 election, Pinochet said, "I feel a deep attachment to the constitution." The constitution prohibits him from seeking reelection, but several right-wing groups have insisted in recent months that a formula be found to allow him to run.

#### Black diplomat gets top U.S. post

WASHINGTON (AP) — Edward J. Perkins, a veteran black diplomat now serving as U.S. ambassador to South Africa, will be the new director-general of the U.S. Foreign Service, officials said Friday. Morris Busby, a specialist on Central America, is to be the State Department's anti-terrorism chief, it was announced. Perkins will succeed George S. Vest, 70, the department's senior foreign service officer who is retiring next Wednesday. Perkins, 60, was sent to Pretoria by former President Ronald Reagan in 1986 in an effort to demonstrate U.S. interest in bridging the gap between blacks and whites in the country.

#### Arms seized, 6 arrested in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities seized 20 weapons, including a grenade launcher, and arrested six people in a raid on a motel

Friday. A Nazi flag was found in one of two cars with Texas license plates searched during the raid, said John Kelso, a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) official. The investigation started Thursday afternoon when a suburban Dallas woman called the FBI to report that her son, John Barnhart, 33, of Rowlett, Texas, had been kidnapped. The woman said Barnhart, who had been missing two weeks, instructed her to wire him \$1,000 in Washington or "some harm would come to him," according to Kelso. FBI agents traced the man to the motel and quickly determined that he hadn't been kidnapped, Kelso said. He said authorities were trying to determine why the suspects were at the motel, where they had been staying for several days, and what they were planning to do with the weapons.

#### France expels 3 South Africans

PARIS (AP) — Three South African officials implicated in secretly acquiring British Blowpipe missile parts from Northern Ireland extremists were ordered to leave France by May 2, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. The official announcement did not name the three but said they were attached to the South African embassy in Paris, with partial diplomatic immunity. A French official speaking on condition of anonymity said the three included Daniel Storn, the South African caught collecting British-made ground-to-air missile parts from three Protestant extremists of the Ulster Resistance.

#### Protesters blamed for Georgia deaths

MOSCOW (AP) — An Interior Ministry official implied Friday that Georgian demonstrators were responsible for violence that led to the deaths of 19 people at a pro-independence protest earlier this month. A.I. Grikash, head of the Interior Ministry's political department, told Soviet journalists that soldiers try not to use force to break up demonstrations, but that the April 9 protest in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, was not peaceful. At least 19 people were killed in the protest when troops wielding shovels, clubs and firing a debilitating gas moved in on the demonstration outside government house in downtown Tbilisi. One additional person was killed later for violating a curfew. Georgian activists contend the troops moved in without warning and attacked the demonstrators. The activists say the demonstrators, though calling for independence from Moscow, were peaceful.



A victim of a recent rebel attack in Peru. Friday's successful attack by Peruvian soldiers against the rebels is seen as a boost for the Armed Forces, which

has been battling the insurgents intermittently in remote areas of the country.

### 62 rebels killed in Peru

LIMA (R) — Soldiers killed 62 leftist guerrillas Friday in one of the fiercest battles to date against rebels in Peru and President Alan Garcia praised the army for what he called a serious blow to terrorism.

An army statement said that five soldiers and a lieutenant died in the clash in one of Peru's richest farming regions. Another 26 government troops were wounded, it added.

This must be one of the most serious blows the armed forces and the police have delivered against terrorism," Garcia told reporters following a quick trip to the battle area in the central Junin department.

"The guerrilla threat is endangering our democracy... so it is necessary for it to defend itself," he said.

The president said army authorities believed the dead guerrillas belonged to the Marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), Peru's smallest rebel group.

He made the remarks after he flew by helicopter to the battle area following the clash in the Los Molinos district about 50 kilometres from the city of Huancayo.

Dozens of guerrilla bodies still lay on the ground as the president and Defence Minister General Enrique Lopez toured the area,

military sources said.

Western diplomats have called Friday's clash one of the bloodiest in Peru's nine-year guerrilla war and a major government blow against the rebels.

The army statement said that the two leaders of the dead were believed to be Colombians.

The guerrilla group was attacked by troops after they were spotted in two trucks and the rebels opened fire.

Garcia's Social Democrat government has been under strong pressure from right-wing groups to take the initiative in Peru's guerrilla war following a series of recent upsurges of bold rebel attacks, military sources said.

### NASA scrambles to pinpoint cause of shuttle launch delay

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The U.S. space agency has despatched troubleshooters to pinpoint quickly the cause of technical problems that prevented the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis in the final seconds of its countdown.

After scrubbing Friday's launch, officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said their next attempt would come no earlier than 2:07 p.m. EDT (1807 GMT) Monday.

But they said the flight, which

will itself launch the first U.S. deep-space expedition in more than a decade, could be put off until well into next week if extensive repairs are required.

After one of the smoothest

shuttle countdowns ever, the launch was stopped 31 seconds before lift-off when a fuel pump feeding one of the Atlantis' main engines suddenly failed.

Atlantis, carrying a crew of five astronauts, had been scheduled to release the \$550 million Magellan probe, an unmanned spacecraft that is to fly to Venus to map 90 per cent of the planet's surface.

"It's a very important mission and we can't afford to have too many delays like this," NASA spokesman Ken Sennert said.

More than three hours after they were strapped into the flight seats, the astronauts crawled out of the crew compartment and headed back to their quarters.

The delay was blamed on

failure of a liquid hydrogen fuel pump used to control temperature and pressure in the lines linking engine Number one and the shuttle's external fuel tank.

Officials said it was unclear whether the trouble was in the pump itself or in its external power supply.

Launch director Robert Sieck said that after the flight was scrubbed launch crews discovered another problem — a hydrogen vapour leak from an engine fuel line. He said technicians would spend the weekend checking the equipment and making repairs.

The mission is the 29th of the shuttle programme but only the fourth since January 1986, when the spaceship Challenger exploded after lift-off.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN. °	MAX. °	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	10	32	13 55 Clear
ATHENS	15	59	26 79 Clear
BAHRAM	25	84	36 97 Clear
BAKOK	20	50	14 57 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	20	68	35 97 Clear
CARDO	12	45	11 51 Clear
COPENHAGEN	04	39	09 48 Clear
FRANKFURT	02	36	10 49 Clear
GENEVA	03	37	09 42 Cloudy
HONG KONG	23	73	27 81 Clear
ISTANBUL	12	54	24 75 Cloudy
LONDON	07	45	11 52 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	24	75	36 97 Clear
MADRID	07	43	17 63 Clear
MELBOURNE	24	75	40 100 Cloudy
MOSCOW	08	46	22 72 Clear
NEW DELHI	24	75	36 97 Clear
NEW YORK	08	46	20 68 Rain
PARIS	08	41	13 55 Cloudy
ROME	08	43	14 54 Cloudy
TOKYO	08	49	